



Shojo Beat Manga

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Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

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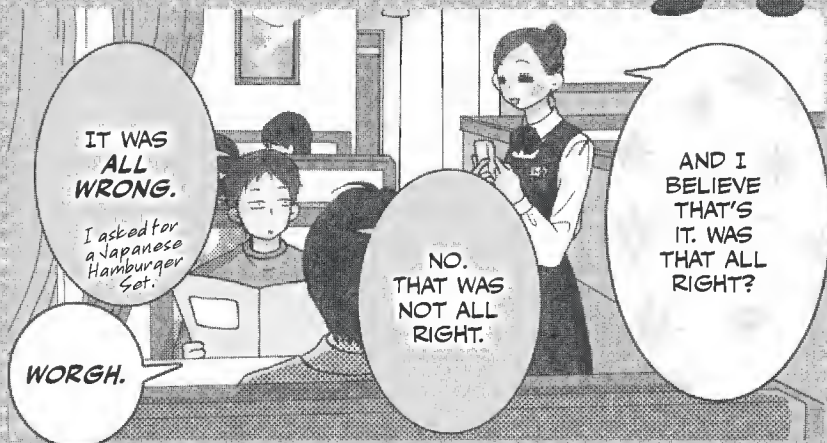
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Glossary177

The Story So Far...

Risa and Ôtani are their class's lopsided comedy duo, but then Risa falls in love with Ôtoni! She finally works up the courage to tell him how she feels, only to be rejected. Even so, she keeps trying to change his mind, and after a ton of twists and turns, they start going out!! However, Ôtoni's neighbor Mimi, who has a huge crush on him, starts crashing their dates and making things very complicated. But Risa and Ôtoni manage to sort it all out and grow even closer, until the subject of "life after graduation" throws another monkey wrench into their relationship!! Ôtani wants to go to college and become a teacher so he can coach basketball. He starts studying really hard to pass the college entrance exams, and Risa, who hasn't thought about her future very seriously, is beginning to feel left behind... She starts waitressing part-time, but drops so many dishes she feels even more depressed... Ôtani cheers her up and makes her feel better, but what's coming up next?!

♥ To really get all the details, check out Lovely Complex Vols. 1-9, available at bookstores everywhere!!





Shojo Beat



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CHAPTER 37



THE
CUSTOMERS'RE
WONDERING
WHAT'S UP, MIZ
MATSUBARA!

NO
NEED
TO GET
CARRIED
AWAY!!

WOO
HOO

IS THAT
FOR REAL?!
MAYBE I'LL
TRY FOR AN
A+ NEXT!
HOW'S
THIS?!



BUT...



YOU GO
BACK TO
WORK NOW,
KOIZUMI-
SAN!!

TRY TO
KEEP YOUR
VOICE DOWN,
MIZ MATSU-
BARA!

MY
VOICE
IS...

YES,
MA'AM,
I'M
GOING!

...!!

QUIETLY!!



OH,
HEYYY!!



...I'M KINDA
STARTING
TO ENJOY
IT THESE
DAYS.

THAT'S
THE FIRST
TIME SHE
SAID SOME-
THING NICE
ABOUT ME.



YEAH.
UH-HUH?

I KNEW IT!
I KNEW THAT
WAS YOU!
I TOTALLY
SAW YOU
THERE!



OH, HI,
KOHORI-
KUN.
HOW'S
IT...

SO,
HEY!

WEREN'T
YOU THERE
AT THAT
UMIBÔZU
SHOW THE
OTHER
NIGHT?

FINALLY!
I'VE
TOTALLY
BEEN
HOPING
TO RUN
INTO YOU,
KOIZUMI-
SAN!

TMP
TMP
TMP





I'M CRAZY
ABOUT HIM!
I MEAN,
HE TOTALLY
ROCKS! I
JUST CAN'T
FIGURE OUT
WHY MORE
PEOPLE
DON'T
GET IT!

ISN'T
HE THE
BEST?!

I'M
TOTALLY
SERIOUS!
HE'S LIKE,
THE
MASTER!
HE'S
AWESOME!!

TOTALLY!
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME? I
LOOOOOVE
UMIBÔZU!!

NO WAY!
OMIGOD!
YOU
WERE
THERE
TOO?!

ARE YOU
SERIOUS
?!



KOHORI-
KUN.

LIKE, I
PRACTI-
CALLY HAD
TO BRIBE
THIS
BUDDY OF
MINE TO
GO TO
THE SHOW
WITH...

NONE
OF MY
FRIENDS
ARE
REALLY
INTO HIM,
AND I'M
LIKE,
DUUDES!!

I
KNOW,
HUH?!



W
H
A
A
T
?!

WHO, ME?
I GET
OFF IN,
LIKE, AN
HOUR.

HOW
LATE'RE
YOU
WORKING
TODAY,
KOIZUMI-
SAN?

I'M
GONNA
GET
DOCKED
AGAIN!

OH!
YARGH!


GET
CHANGED
AND
PUNCH
IN YOUR
TIME
CARD!

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO BE
CHATting
RIGHT
NOW!



YOU
GOT
IT!

I'LL
TALK
ABOUT
THE
BOZE
ANYTIME!



I WAS
TOTALLY
HOPING
WE COULD
TALK ABOUT
UMIBÔZU
AND STUFF.
NEXT TIME,
OKAY?
IF WE
HAVE A
LITTLE
TIME?

IN,
LIKE, AN
HOUR?!

DARRRRN!
I MEAN...

KOHORI-
KUN!!



...NOW I'M
STARTING
TO FEEL
LIKE THIS
IS GOING
TO WORK
OUT OKAY.

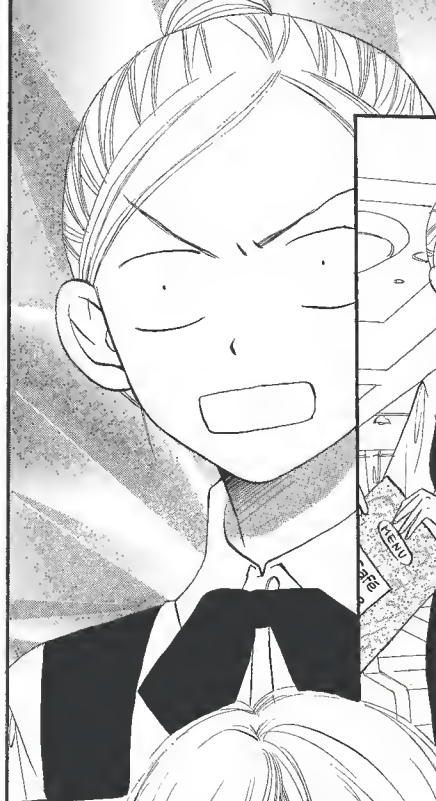


ha
ha
ha

FOR A
WHILE I
THOUGHT
I WOULD
GET FIRED
FOR SURE,
BUT...



COOL!



K
R
E
E

SO WOW,
KOHORI-
KUN'S AN
UMIBÔZU
FAN TOO...

WHAT A
GREAT
GUY.
♡

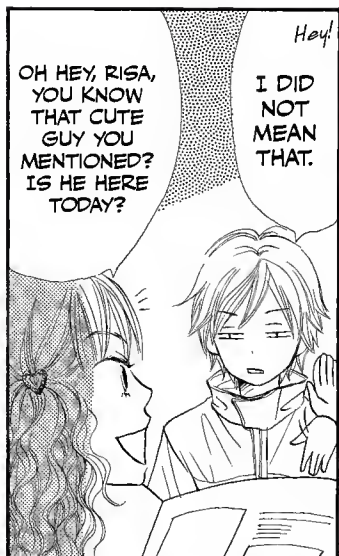


YOU SURE
WE'RE
WELCOME?



PFFFFFT!





OH HEY, RISA,
YOU KNOW
THAT CUTE
GUY YOU
MENTIONED?
IS HE HERE
TODAY?

Hey!

I DID
NOT
MEAN
THAT.



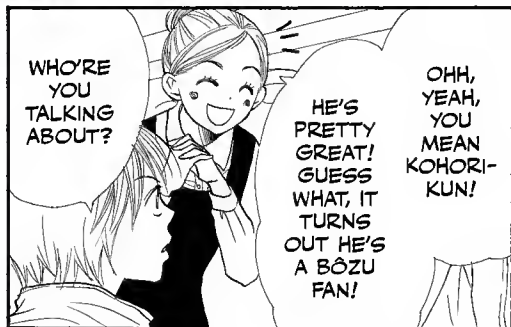
ESPECIALLY
THE NOT-
SO-SURE-
HE'S-
COLLEGE-
BOUND
SENIOR.

EXACTLY.

WHAAT?

YOU EVEN
HAVE TO
GO ON
SUNDAYS?

NO SUCH
THING AS
A DAY OFF
FOR THE
COLLEGE-
BOUND
SENIOR.



WHO'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

HE'S
PRETTY
GREAT!
GUESS
WHAT, IT
TURNS
OUT HE'S
A BÔZU
FAN!

OH, YEAH,
YOU
MEAN
KOHORI-
KUN!



SHRIMP-
LOVER?

THE
NEXT LITTLE
CRUSTACEAN
THAT SHRIMP-
LOVER RISA'S
GOT HER
EYE ON.



YOU SAID
THERE
WAS A
CUTE GUY
IN THE
KITCHEN
HERE.

WHAT
CUTE
GUY?



NO WAY!
FOR
REAL?!

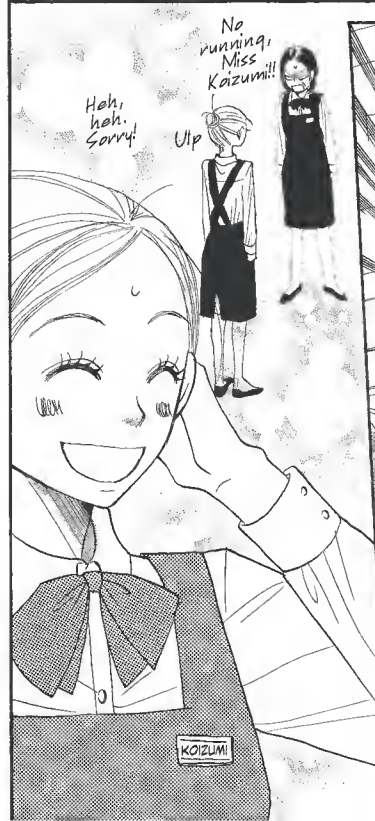
I JUST
FOUND OUT
TODAY THAT
HE WAS
AT THAT
UMIBÔZU
SHOW THE
OTHER
NIGHT!

WHO
CARES
IF HE'S
TALL OR
SHORT
ANYWAY?
LISTEN!



WHAT'S
THE
DEAL,
THIS
GUY'S
SHORT
TOO?

**NOBUUU!!
I NEVER
SAID
ANYTHING
LIKE
THAT!!**



Hah,
hah.
Sorry!

Ulp

No
running,
Miss
Koizumi!!



BE
BACK
IN A
MINUTE,
OKAY?!

HEY...!



TOTALLY
FOR
REAL!
SO
THEN...

OH,
WHOOPS.
I'LL GET
IN TROUBLE
AGAIN IF
I STAND
AROUND
TALKING
LIKE THIS.

HUH?



SHE
SEEMS TO
BE GETTING
ALONG HERE
BETTER THAN
I THOUGHT.

...WHAT-
EVER.

...

WELL,
WELL,
WELL.



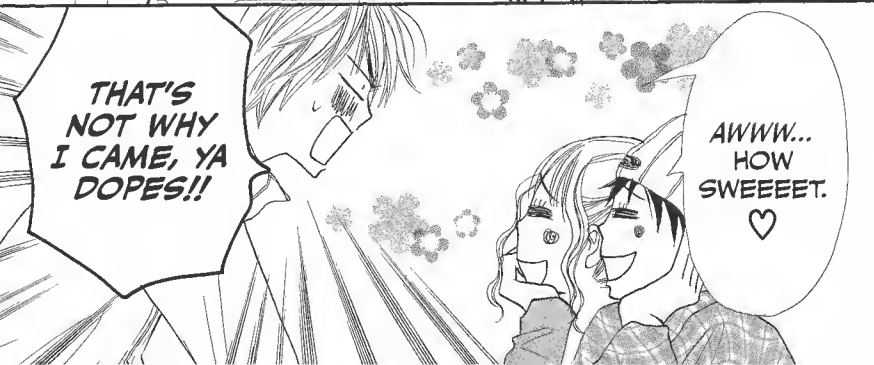
HEY!

WELL,
SHE WAS
PRETTY
DEPRESSED
ABOUT
GETTING
YELLED AT
ALL THE
TIME.

YEAH,
TOTALLY.

OH,
SHE
WAS?

AFTER ALL
THAT STUFF
ABOUT "LET'S
GO GIVE HER
A HARD TIME,"
IT TURNS OUT
HE WAS JUST
WORRIED ABOUT
HER AND WANTED
TO SEE HOW SHE
WAS DOING.



THAT'S
NOT WHY
I CAME, YA
DOPES!!

AWWW...
HOW
SWEET.



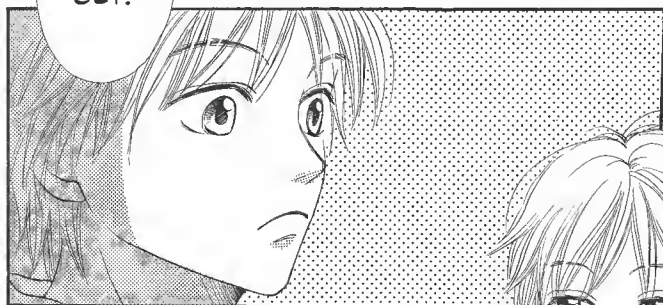


KEEP
TALKING
LIKE THAT,
AND RISA'S
GOING TO
START
FOOLING
AROUND WITH
THAT CUTE
SHRIMPY
GUY.

YEAH,
YEAH.
GO ON.

I'M TRYING
TO GET INTO
COLLEGE
HERE, OKAY?
YOU THINK I
GOT TIME TO
BE WORRIED
ABOUT
KOIZUMI?

YUP,
YUP.
WATCH
OUT!



DARN...

SO ÔTANI
GOES TO
HIS PREP
COURSE ON
SUNDAYS
TOO.

YEAH,
RIGHT.
AS IF.





THAT
REALLY
SUCKS...



I DON'T
HAVE TO
WORK NEXT
SUNDAY,
SO I WAS
HOPING
WE COULD
DO SOME-
THING...

Refill
for
the
salad
bar.

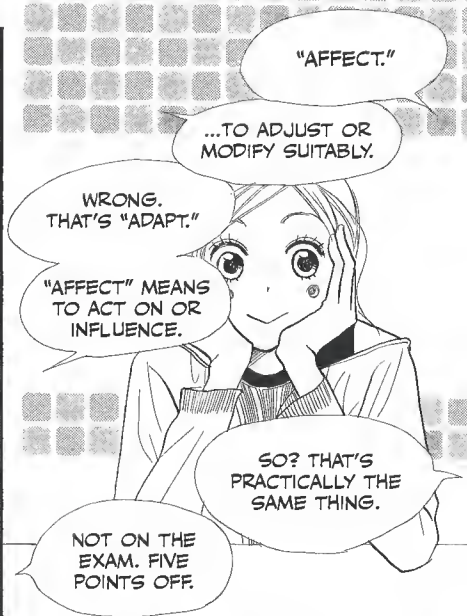
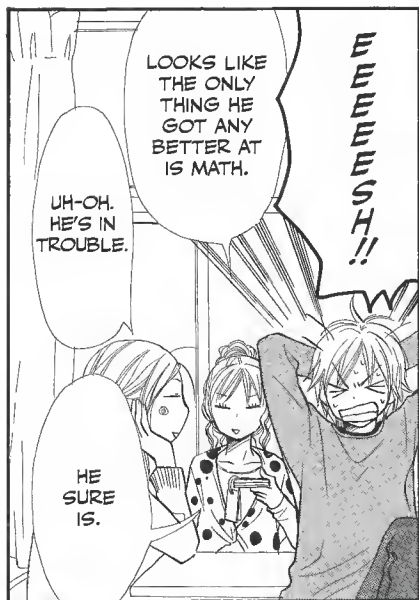


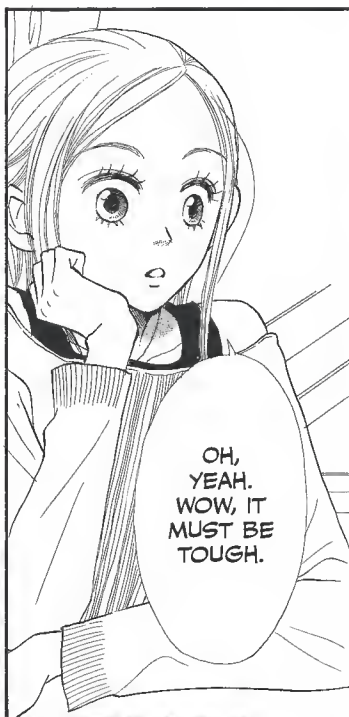
MISS
KOIZUMI.

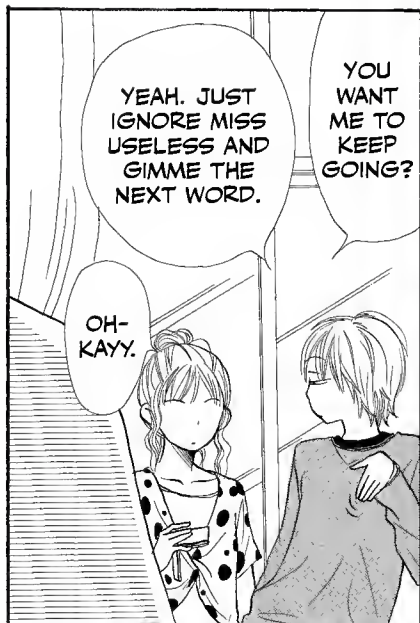
LET'S PUT
A LITTLE
VINEGAR
IN ÔTANI'S
POLYNESIAN
DANCER.



OH, WELL.
IF HE
WANTS TO
GO TO
COLLEGE,
HE NEEDS
TO STUDY.
THAT'S JUST
THE WAY
IT IS...







Hello, Nakahara here. We're up to Volume 10.

Well, I tell ya. You get up to ten volumes of a manga, you get a little older in the process. In fact, I've aged three years since I started this one. Thanks to all of you, though, it's been a very meaningful three years...

Meanwhile, my sister had a baby girl.

She loves Aunt Aya's Dynamite Shikkoku imitation. Every time I see her, I have to shout "Shikkoku, Shikkoku" and do wrestling poses, yes indeed.

In fact, I was just doing it now, so Auntie's kinda out of breath.



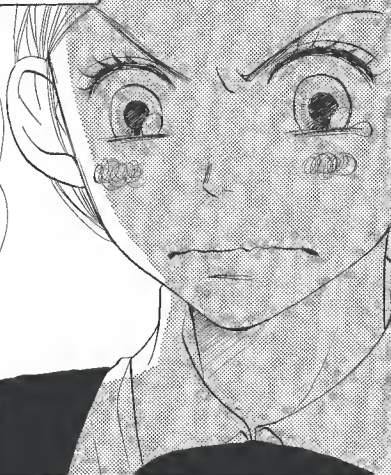
I
AM SO
SURE!
I MEAN,
REALLY!

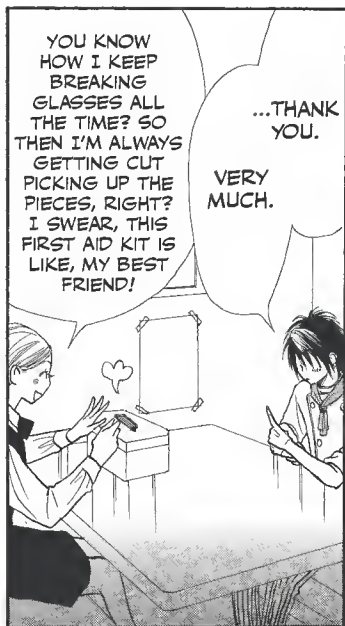
I'M
USELESS,
AM I?!
I GET IN
HIS WAY,
DO I?!

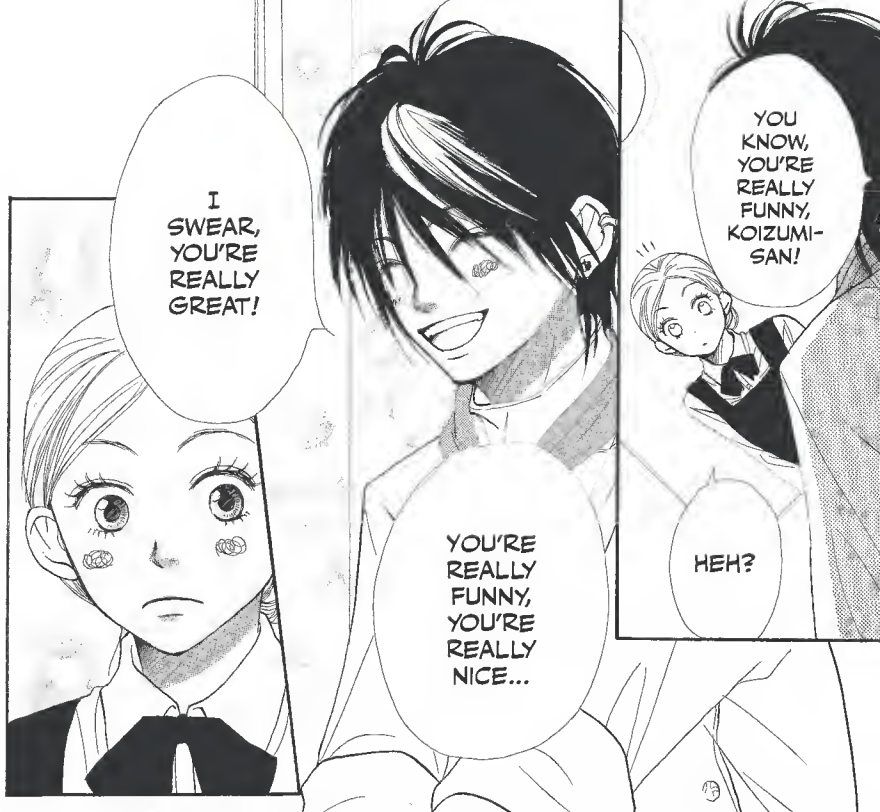
BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN IT'S
COOL TO
YELL AT ME
AND STUFF
WHEN I'M
JUST TRYING
TO CHEER
HIM ON!

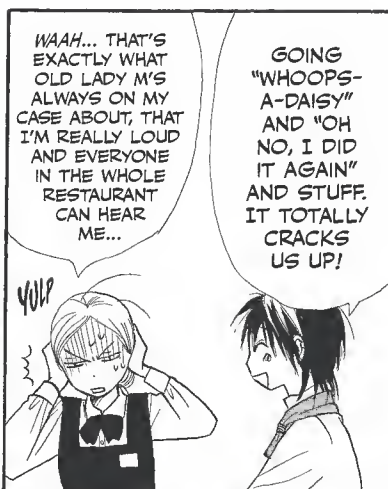
SO OKAY, I
KNOW THAT
STUDYING
FOR THOSE
EXAMS IS
REALLY
HARD WORK
AND ALL...

HEY,
KOIZUMI-
SAAAN!











...INSTEAD
OF BEING
CALLED MISS
USELESS AND
TREATED LIKE
A GIANT PAIN
IN THE BUTT
BY A CERTAIN
GROUCHY
SOMEBODY
WHO'S
STUDYING
TOO MUCH
TO BE NICE
TO ME...

BOY.

IT SURE
IS NICE
BEING
APPRECI-
ATED
FOR A
CHANGE...



SHUT UP,
LOUD-
MOUTH.
LEAVE ME
ALONE.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON
HERE?

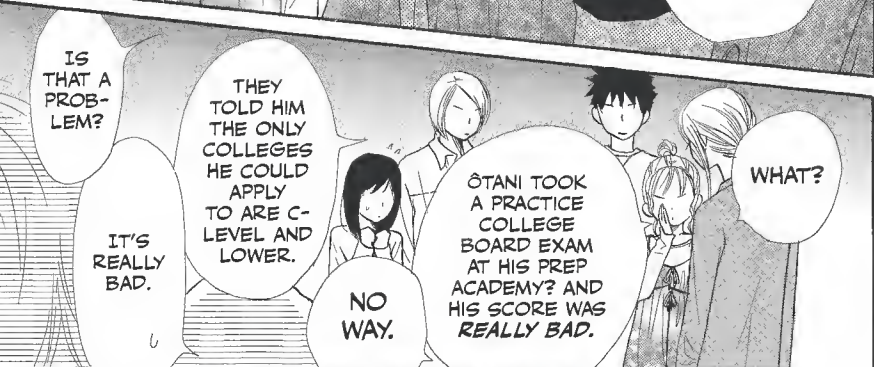
WHAT'S
WITH THIS
HEAVY,
DEPRESSING
ATMO-
SPHERE?





HEY, RISA.
OVER
HERE. WE
NEED TO
TALK TO
YOU.

NWARGH.



IS
THAT A
PROB-
LEM?

THEY
TOLD HIM
THE ONLY
COLLEGES
HE COULD
APPLY
TO ARE C-
LEVEL AND
LOWER.

IT'S
REALLY
BAD.

NO
WAY.

ÔTANI TOOK
A PRACTICE
COLLEGE
BOARD EXAM
AT HIS PREP
ACADEMY? AND
HIS SCORE WAS
REALLY BAD.

WHAT?



SO
HOW
COME?!

OH,
MAN...

STUDYING
ALL DAY
AND ALL
NIGHT...
I HARDLY
EVEN
GET ANY
SLEEP...

I'M,
LIKE...

HOW
COME
...?



...EASY
FOR
YOU
TO
SAY,
ISN'T
IT...

YOU PUSH
YOURSELF
TOO HARD,
YOU COULD
COLLAPSE.

I JUST
DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
OVER-
DO IT,
THAT'S
ALL.



YOU STILL
HAVE TIME,
OKAY? KEEP
AT IT, AND
YOU'LL DO
ALL RIGHT.

YOU CAN'T
EXPECT TO
GET GOOD
TEST SCORES
RIGHT OFF
THE BAT WHEN
YOU ONLY
STARTED
STUDYING
NOW.



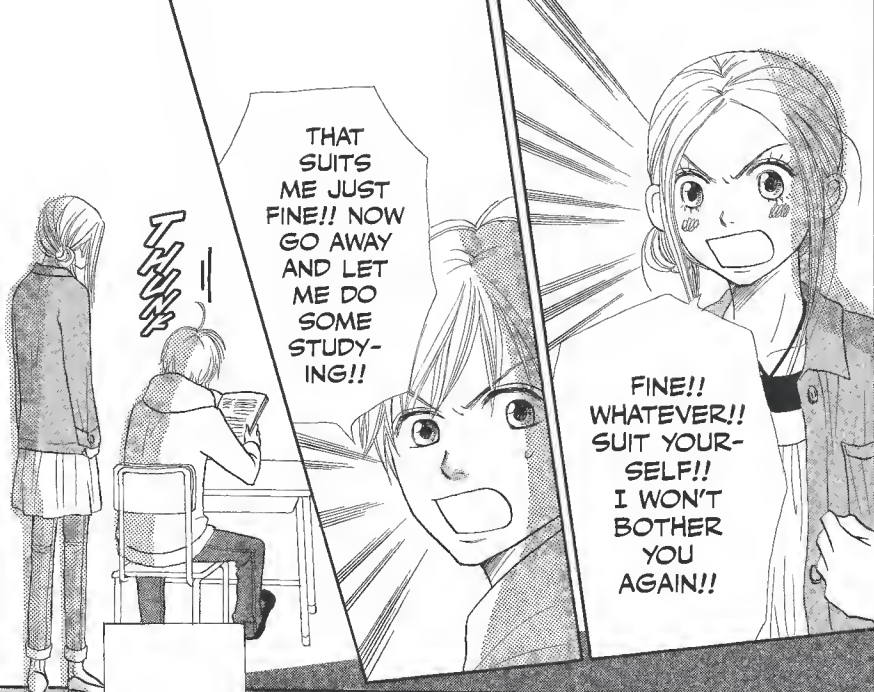
WHAT IS YOUR
PROBLEM?!
YOU'RE ACTING
LIKE YOU HAVE
A GIANT BURR
STUCK UP
YOUR BUTT!!

WELL,
MAYBE
I DO!
AND MAYBE
YOU'RE IT!
SO WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST GET
THE HECK
OUTTA
HERE!!

UH...



LOOK,
JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!!
GET
OUTTA MY
FACE!!



THAT
SUITS
ME JUST
FINE!! NOW
GO AWAY
AND LET
ME DO
SOME
STUDY-
ING!!

FINE!!
WHATEVER!!
SUIT YOUR-
SELF!!
I WON'T
BOTHER
YOU
AGAIN!!

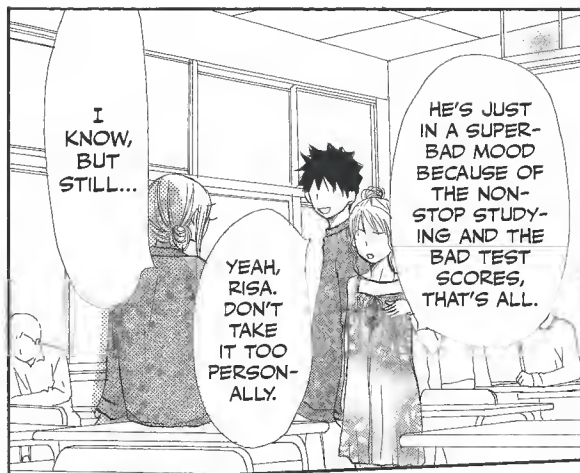
...

BZZZZ

THAT'S
LIKE
HE WAS
SAYING
...

I
MEAN,
MY
GOSH.

...WHAT
WAS
THAT?



I
KNOW,
BUT
STILL...

YEAH,
RISA.
DON'T
TAKE
IT TOO
PERSON-
ALLY.

HE'S JUST
IN A SUPER-
BAD MOOD
BECAUSE OF
THE NON-
STOP STUDY-
ING AND THE
BAD TEST
SCORES,
THAT'S ALL.

...THAT I
REALLY AM
IN HIS WAY,
FOR REAL.
LIKE HAVING
ME AROUND
REALLY
DOES GET
ON HIS
NERVES.



WELL,
OKAY,
MAYBE
I AM
FEELING
A LITTLE
LONELY,
BUT...

THAT'S
NOT
WHY I'M
UPSET.

IF YOU'RE
FEELING
LONELY CUZ
HE'S GOT NO
TIME TO HANG
WITH YOU THESE
DAYS, HOW
ABOUT FOOLING
AROUND WITH
THAT CUTE
LITTLE GUY
AT WORK?

**THAT'S
NOT WHAT
THIS IS
ABOUT!!**

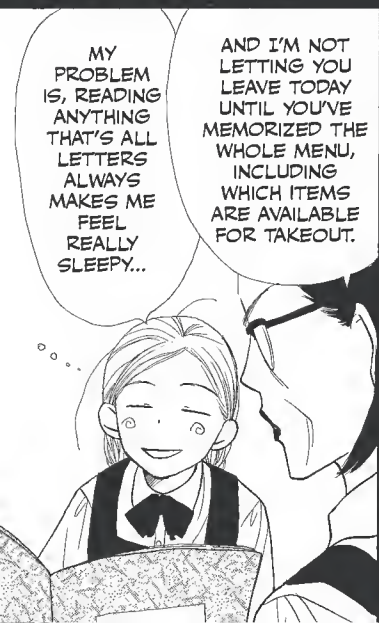


WOW,
DIDJA
SEE THE
SKY?
LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
GONNA
START
POURING.

...THAT
ISN'T
WHAT'S
BOTHER-
ING ME...

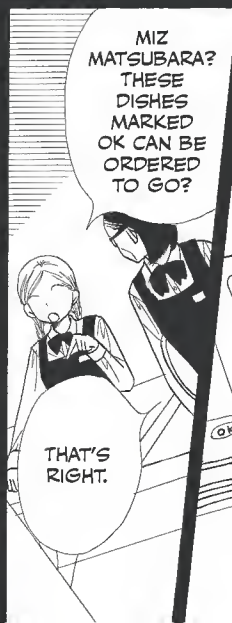


OH,
GREAT...
I DON'T
HAVE AN
UMBRELLA
WITH ME
OR ANY-
THING.



MY
PROBLEM
IS, READING
ANYTHING
THAT'S ALL
LETTERS
ALWAYS
MAKES ME
FEEL
REALLY
SLEEPY...

AND I'M NOT
LETTING YOU
LEAVE TODAY
UNTIL YOU'VE
MEMORIZED THE
WHOLE MENU,
INCLUDING
WHICH ITEMS
ARE AVAILABLE
FOR TAKEOUT.



MIZ
MATSUBARA?
THESE
DISHES
MARKED
OK CAN BE
ORDERED
TO GO?

THAT'S
RIGHT.



Dishes Available
for Takeout

Items marked with
an (OK) symbol are
available to go.

HMM?

Fwa-
aah.

I
TOTALLY
HAVE THE
"DANCER"
SERIES
DOWN,
THOUGH!

WELL,
THE REASON
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
GETTING
YOUR ORDERS
WRONG IS
YOU DON'T
KNOW THE
MENU,
ISN'T IT?!

THAT
ISN'T VERY
HARD,
CONSIDER-
ING THE
SERIES
CONSISTS
OF JUST
TWO
DRINKS!

OH!
WELCOME
TO CAFÉ
IKEBE!
TABLE FOR
TWO?

SO YOU
CAN ORDER
SOME OF
THE DISHES
HERE
TO GO.

I
DIDN'T
KNOW
THAT.

OTANI TOOK
A PRACTICE
COLLEGE
BOARD EXAM
AT HIS PREP
ACADEMY?
AND HIS
SCORE WAS
REALLY BAD.

HE STAYED
BEHIND
REALLY LATE
YESTERDAY
TO GO OVER
THE PARTS
HE DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
WITH THE
TEACHER.

OTANI'S
BEEN
STUDYING
SUPER-
HARD FOR
HIS PREP
COURSE.


...

AFTER
ALL...

...HE'S
REALLY
GOING
FOR IT. HE'S
STUDYING SO
HARD HE'S
PRACTICALLY
KILLING
HIMSELF.



I'M GONNA
BUY HIM
SOMETHING
TO TAKE
OVER THERE
WHEN I GET
OFF WORK.



I WANT TO
HELP HIM
SOMEHOW.
I WANT TO
DO MORE
THAN JUST
CHEER
HIM ON.

SO YEAH,
I MISS
BEING
WITH HIM,
BUT
THAT'S
OKAY.

HERE I
AM RIGHT
ACROSS THE
STREET, AND
HE'S RIGHT,
I'VE BEEN
TOTALLY
USELESS
TO HIM.



ÔTANI-
KUN! HI!

OH,
GREAT.
IT'S
RAINING
...?

FOR
REAL?
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

I'LL JUST
SHARE
CHIHARU'S
UMBRELLA,
SO...

YEAH!

I WAS
KINDA
HOPING
THE RAIN
WOULD
STOP.
DIDN'T
BRING AN
UMBRELLA
...

...WANNA
USE
MINE?

YEAH.
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
AREN'T
YOU
GOING
HOME?

HEY,
DUDES.
YOU
WERE
HERE
TODAY?



OKAY.
COOL.
THANKS
A LOT...

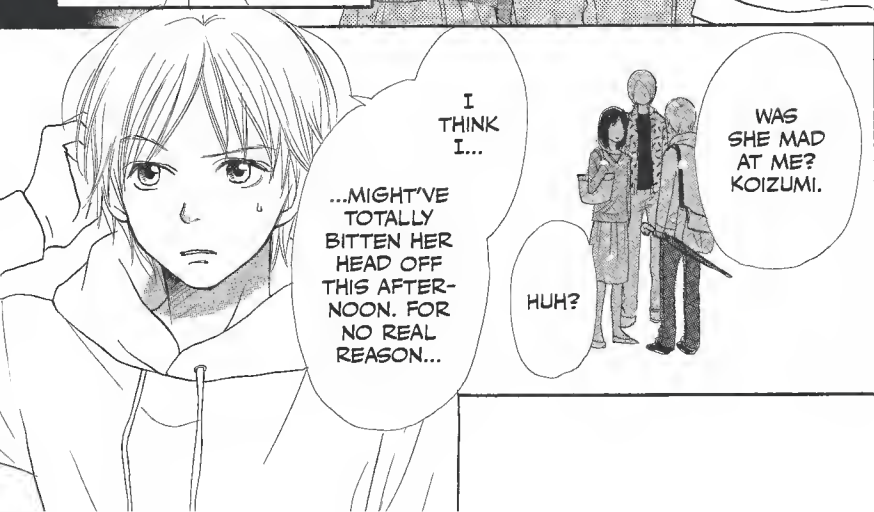


SHE AT
WORK?

YOU
KNOW
WHAT,
I DON'T
THINK
SHE
DID...

YEAH...

WONDER
IF KOIZUMI
HAD AN
UMBRELLA
WITH HER.



I
THINK
I...

...MIGHT'VE
TOTALLY
BITTEN HER
HEAD OFF
THIS AFTER-
NOON. FOR
NO REAL
REASON...

HUH?

WAS
SHE MAD
AT ME?
KOIZUMI.



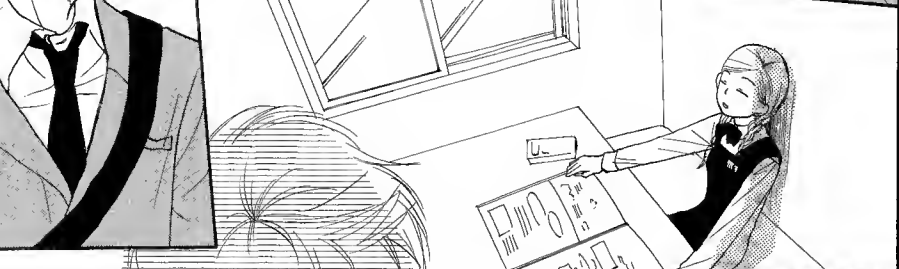
I JUST
DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
OVER-
DO IT,
THAT'S
ALL.
YOU PUSH
YOURSELF
TOO HARD,
YOU COULD
COLLAPSE.

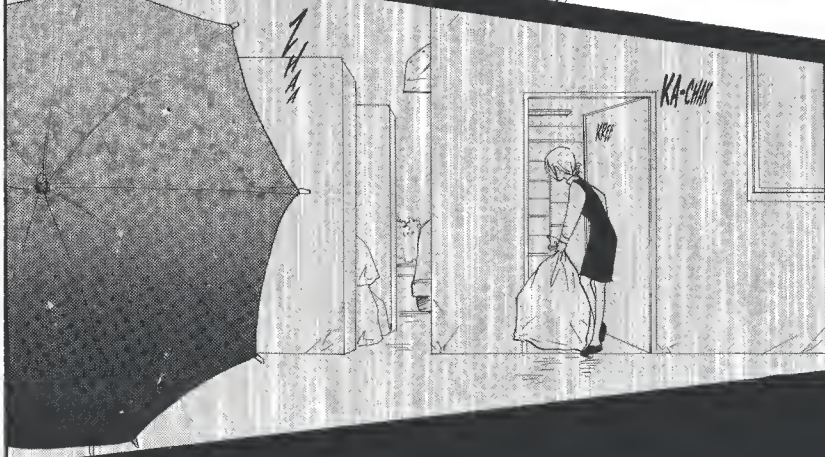
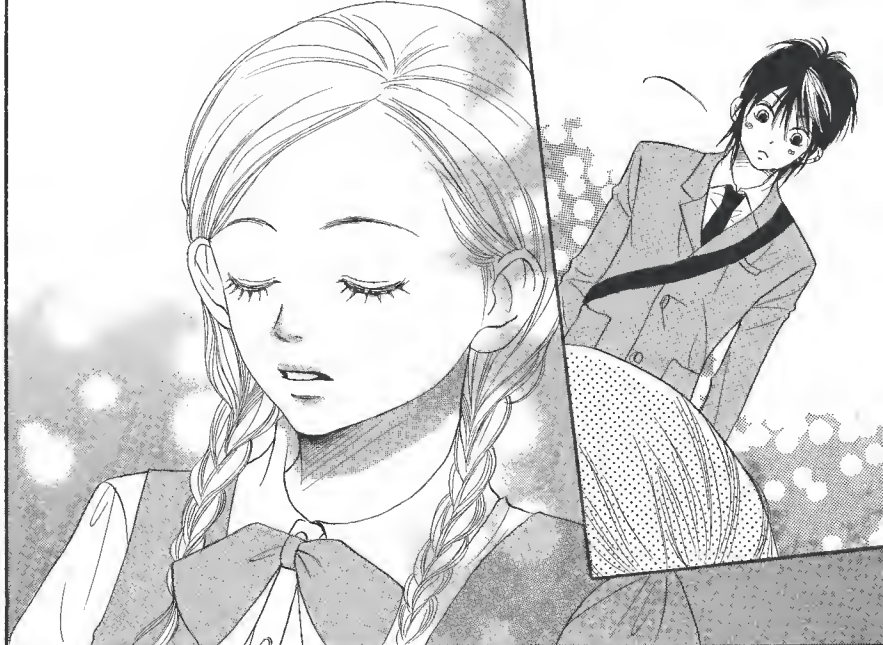
LOOK,
JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!!
GET
OUTTA MY
FACE!!

1
H
A
A
A

ÔTANI

...
WONDER IF
IT'S ABOUT
TIME FOR
HIM TO GET
OUT OF
HIS PREP
COURSE...





OHH,
OKAY!
SHE GETS
OFF REAL
SOON.
SHE
OUGHTA
BE OUT
ANY
MINUTE.

FOR RISA
KOIZUMI...

UH,
YEAH,
ACTU-
ALLY.

ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR
SOME-
BODY?

WHO,
ME?!

I BET
HE'S
HUNGRY.

I'LL
ORDER
HIM SOME-
THING
WARM
AND TAKE
IT OVER
THERE.

OH.
GREAT.
THANKS.

YOU CAN
COME AND
WAIT FOR
HER INSIDE,
YOU KNOW.

*Aren't
you
getting
wet?*



GIVE
HIM A
LITTLE
SURPRISE

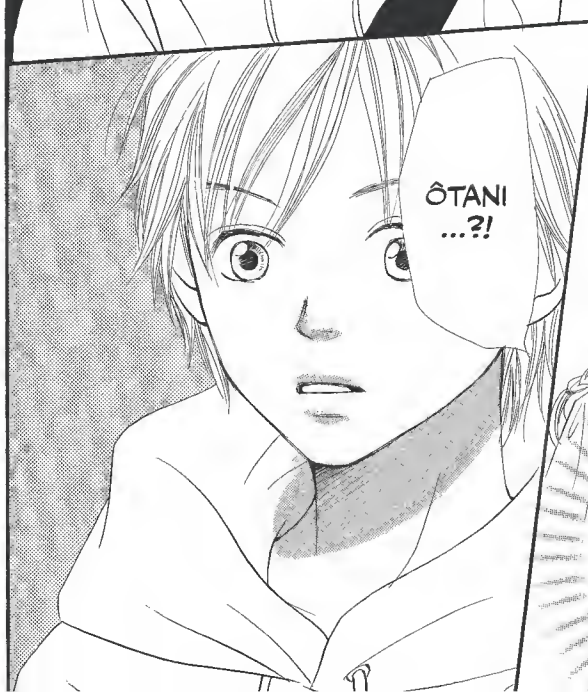
...

...HMM?

This panel shows a close-up of a character's face, focusing on the eye and a braid. A speech bubble contains the text "...HMM?".



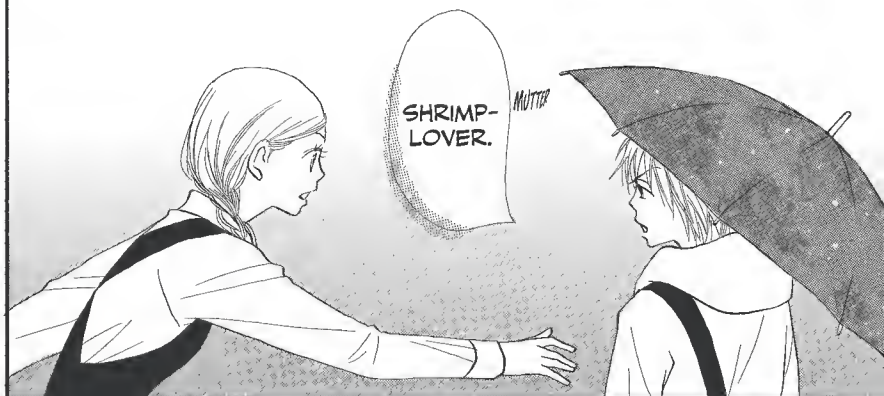




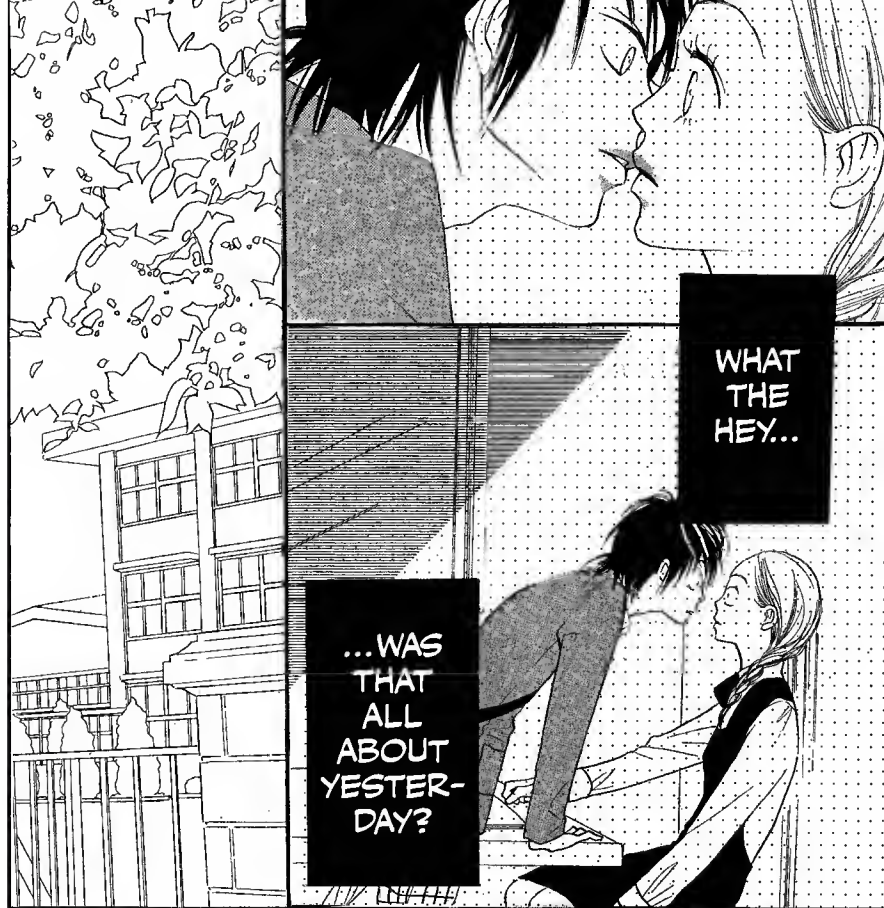










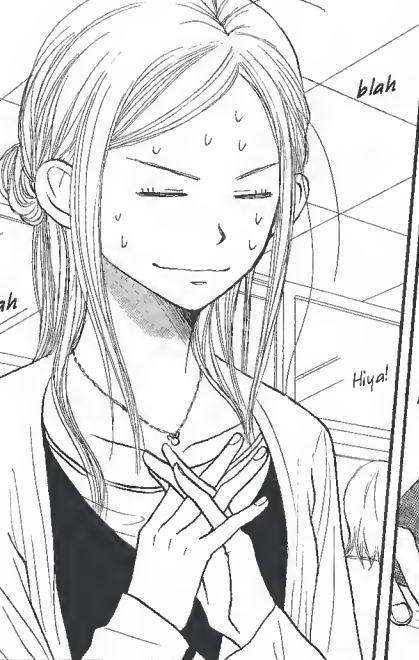


WHAT
THE
HEY...

...WAS
THAT
ALL
ABOUT
YESTER-
DAY?

CHAPTER 38





I CAUGHT
KOIZUMI
FOOLING
AROUND
WITH THAT
SHRIMP
AT HER
WORK.



WHAT'S
UP?



EXCUSE
ME, BUT
I'M BUSY
STUDYING
RIGHT NOW,
IF YOU
DON'T
MIND.

SO HEY,
LISTEN,
ÔTANI...



I TOLD
YOU, ÔTANI!
YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL
WRONG!!

I TOTALLY
SAW HIM
KISSING YOU,
STRAIGHT ON
THE LIPS!!
I SAW IT
WITH MY
OWN EYES,
OKAY?!

I
DON'T
THINK
SO!!



**WHAA-
AAAT?!**

BUT...



HUH?

...TO FIND
OUT THAT
ALL THIS
TIME, YOU
WERE JUST
AFTER ME
FOR MY
BODY.

GOTTA
SAY, IT
SURE
WAS A
SHOCK...

LIKE
I SAID,
THAT
WAS...

AS IF ANY
GIRL WOULD
EVER GO OUT
WITH A GUY
JUST CUZ
HE'S SHORTER
THAN HER! IT'S
JUST DORKY-
LOOKING!!

OH,
GIVE ME
A MAJOR
BREAK,
ÔTANI!!

YOU DON'T
CARE WHO
IT IS, SO
LONG AS
HE'S SHORT,
DO YOU?!!
YOU BIG
PERVERT!!

I
DIDN'T...

I WAS JUST
KIDDING WHEN
I SAID THAT
ABOUT FOOLING
AROUND CUZ
HE'S GOT NO
TIME FOR YOU.
I NEVER IN A
MILLION YEARS
THOUGHT
YOU'D ACTUALLY
DO IT!

WELL, IT IS,
JEEZ!! IF YOU
THINK YOUR
SHRIMPINESS
MAKES YOU
SOME KIND
OF A BABE
MAGNET,
YOU BETTER
THINK
AGAIN!!

DORKY-
LOOKING?
DID YOU
JUST
SAY IT'S
"DORKY-
LOOKING"?

P
E
R
V
E
R
T
!!

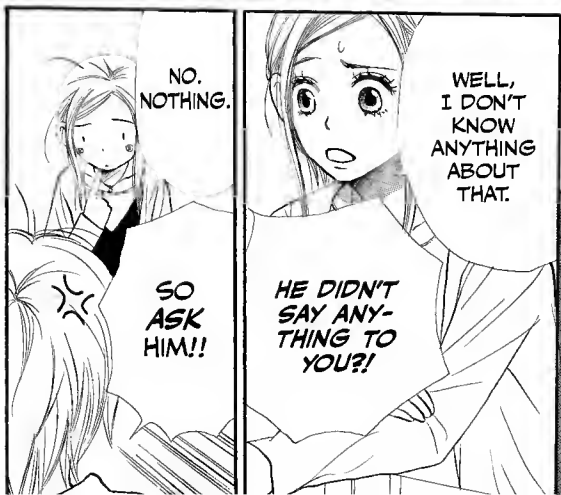
I'M
SHOCKED,
RISA...

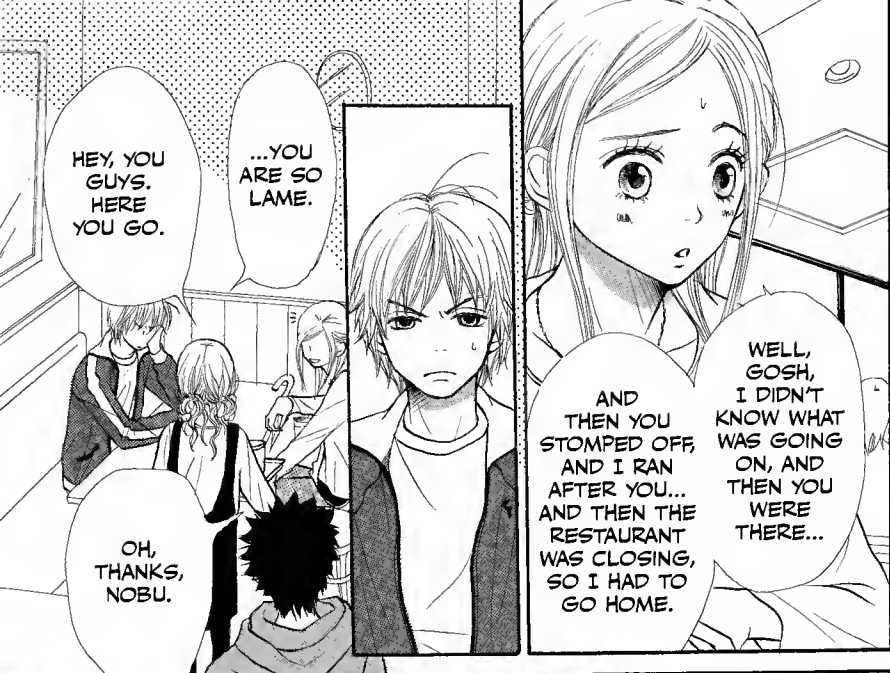
I DIDN'T
THINK YOU
WERE LIKE
THAT, RISA,
I SWEAR
I DIDN'T!!

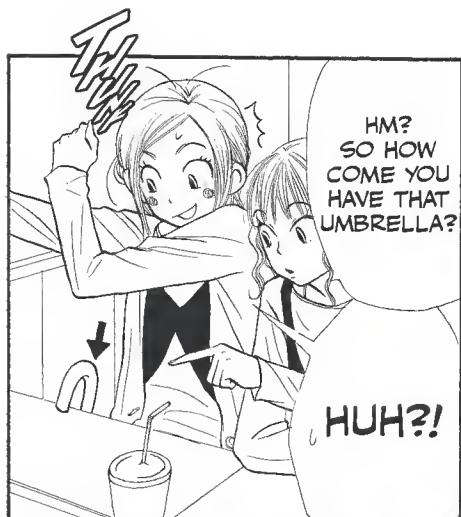
WILL YOU
GUYS
LISTEN TO
ME WHEN
I'M TRYING
TO TALK?!

AS IF
I THINK
THAT,
YOU BIG
DOPE!!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT...

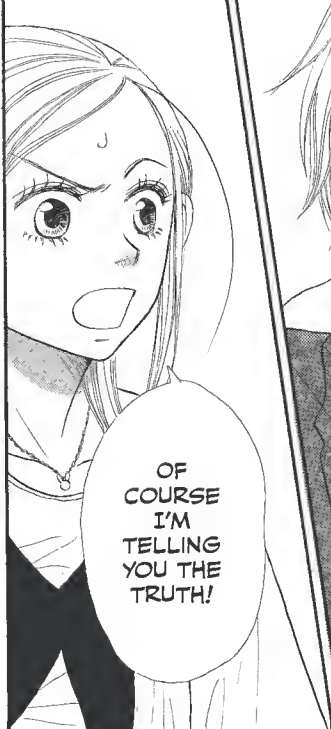








SAY
"ÔTANI'S
GORGEOUS"
THREE
TIMES,
AND I'LL
BELIEVE
YOU.



OF
COURSE
I'M
TELLING
YOU THE
TRUTH!



...YOU
TELLING
ME THE
TRUTH?



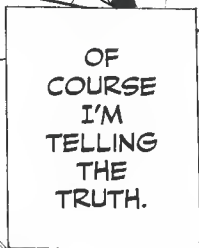
GUESS
NOT.

HMM.

I GUESS
WE DON'T
HAVE A
WHOLE LOT
TO BE
WORRIED
ABOUT.

I was
just
kidding!!

Well,
I'm
not!
You're
dust!

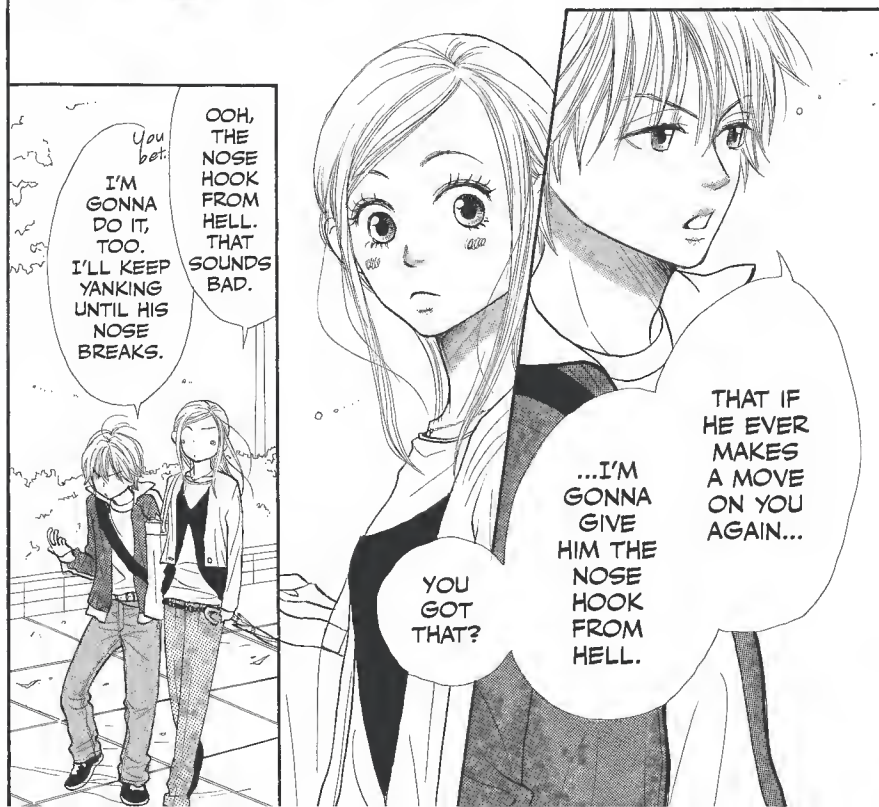


OF
COURSE
I'M
TELLING
THE
TRUTH.



I
SWEAR,
YOU
ARE
DUST!!

ÔTANI'S
DISGUST-
ING,
ÔTANI'S
DISGUST-
ING...



BUT...

THOUGH
ACTUALLY,
I SHOULD'VE
JUST BEATEN
HIM TO A
PULP WHEN I
CAUGHT HIM
RIGHT THERE
IN THE ACT,
DARN IT.

HEY,
IT'S NO
LAUGHING
MATTER,
YOU DITZ!!

TEE
HEE.

SNAP

I'M KINDA
STOKED
THAT HE'S
GETTING
SO MAD
ABOUT IT.

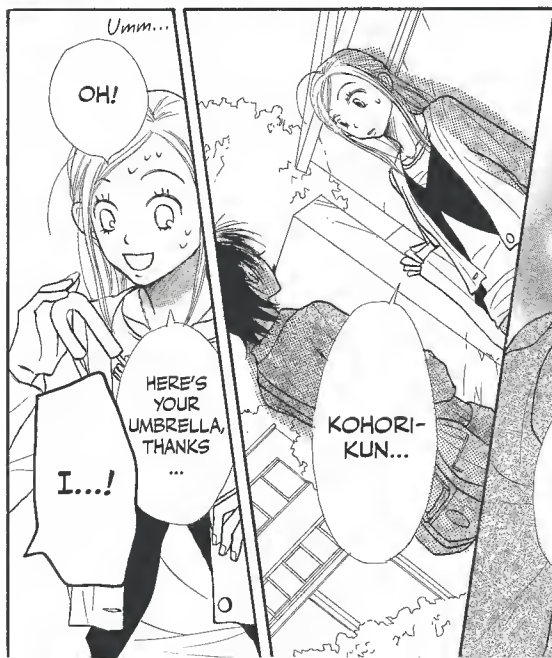
UH-
OH.





I GUESS I
SHOULDN'T
BE STOKED
ABOUT ANY-
THING YET.

I NEED
TO TALK TO
KOHORI-KUN
AND ASK HIM
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED
YESTERDAY...



A second Love☆Com drama CD's been released! Now... boom boom boom pa-twoo pa-twoo!

In terms of the story, it packs in episodes from Vol. 4 to the first part of Vol. 5. And I mean, really packs them in!

The same voice actors who appeared in the first CD gave great performances again in this one. There sure is a lot of talking in this manga... I felt kinda bad...

The new CD has Umibozu, Mrs. Boze, and Mighty appearing for the first time. The voice actors who play them are really great.

If you haven't heard it yet, give it a listen! You'll love it!

pa-twoon pa-twoon

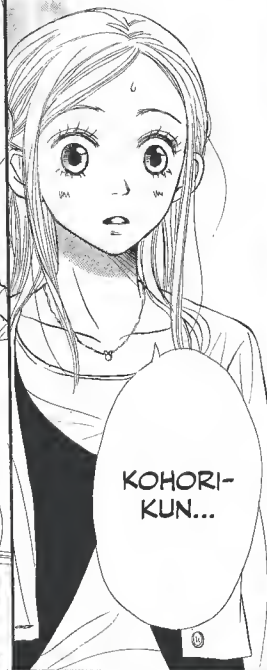




NO
BIGGIE!
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
OKAY?

OH,
HEYYY...!

AND
HERE!
YOUR
UMBRELLA!
THANKS
SO
MUCH!



KOHORI-
KUN...



I'M
REALLY,
REALLY
SORRY...

I
MUST'VE
TOTALLY
FREAKED
YOU OUT...



...I WAS
ASLEEP,
SO I
HARDLY
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENED.

I'M NOT
MAD AT
YOU. TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH...



HUH?

YOU
AREN'T
MAD AT
ME...?

FWW



SO
REALLY,
DON'T FEEL
TOO BAD
ABOUT IT,
OKAY? I
MEAN THAT.
LET'S JUST...



KO...

KOHORI-
KUN,
NO!!
STOP!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON
HERE?!

I AM A
MARRIED
WOMAN!!

THE NOSE
HOOK!
FROM HELL!
AWAITS!
HE'S GONNA
BREAK
YOUR
NOSE...!

I
MEAN,
UM/
ARGH!

WHAAAT
?!

OH,
GOOD.
PHEW...





NO, IT
COULDN'T
...

WHO
CARES
ABOUT
THAT?!
THAT
COULD
WAIT!

I REALLY
WANTED TO
APOLOGIZE
TO YOU
ABOUT
YESTERDAY,
SO...

OH...

LOOK,
YOU NEED
TO GO
HOME
NOW!!

I SAID
I'M TAKING
YOU HOME!
YOU GET
HERE BY
BICYCLE?!
WHICH ONE'S
YOURS?!

HUH...?

...MY
BIKE'S
OVER
THERE...

That
one...

BUT...

HOW'D
YOU GET
HERE?! BY
BICYCLE?!
I'M TAKING
YOU HOME!

SHH



MIGHTY
HIMSELF
IS THE
COOLEST
ONE
AROOOUND

MIGHTY'S
CAR
IS THE
COOLEST
ONE
AROOOUND

YOU!



ha
ha
ha
THAT
WAS A
VERY
NICE
SONG.

I
REFUSE
TO SING
A LIE!

SEIKO!!
WHAT
WAS
THAT?!



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
HARUKA?
DID YOU
SEE
SOME-
THING?

HMM?

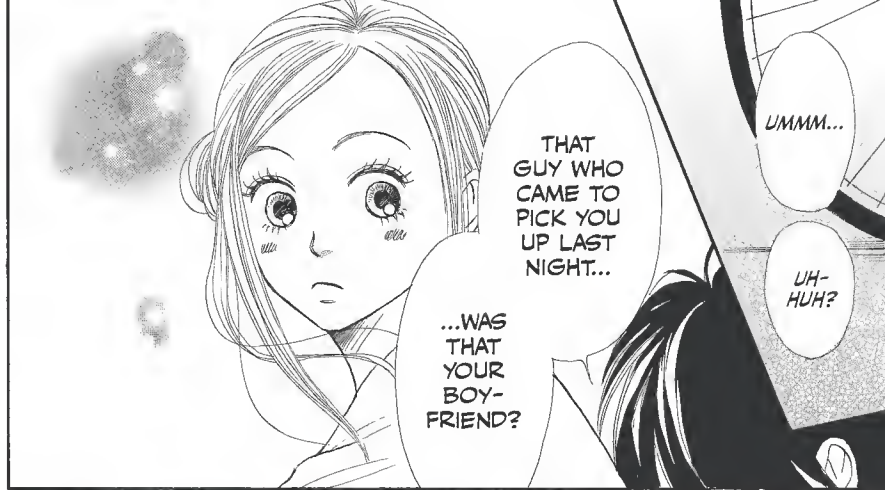


YOU!

AND
HAAARUKA'S
ALSO
PRETTY
DARN
COOOOL

AND
HAARUKA
IS A
PRETTY
GROSS
FOOOOL





THAT
GUY WHO
CAME TO
PICK YOU
UP LAST
NIGHT...

UMMM...

UH-
HUH?

...WAS
THAT
YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND?



...I
FIGURED
HE WAS...

UMM...

YEAH.



HEY, JUST
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT
ANYMORE,
OKAY?

DID YOU
GUYS GET
IN A FIGHT
BECAUSE
OF WHAT
I DID?

LOOK, I
MADE YOU
GET SICK
BY TAKING
YOUR
UMBRELLA,
SO WE'RE
EVEN.

NOW
WHICH
WAY DO
I GO?

...LEFT
...

...I
CAN'T
DO IT.

I CAN'T
SAY ANY-
THING TO
HIM WHEN
HE GETS
ALL QUIET
AND
BUMMED
OUT LIKE
THAT.

OKEY-
DOKEY!

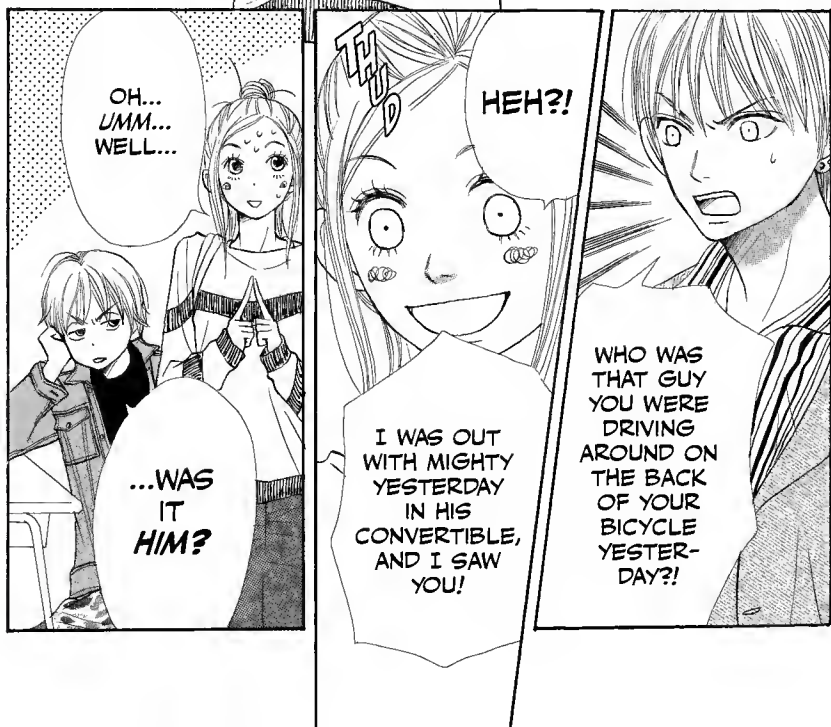
I'M JUST
GOING TO
FORGET
ABOUT IT.
I'LL JUST
PRETEND
IT NEVER
HAPPENED.

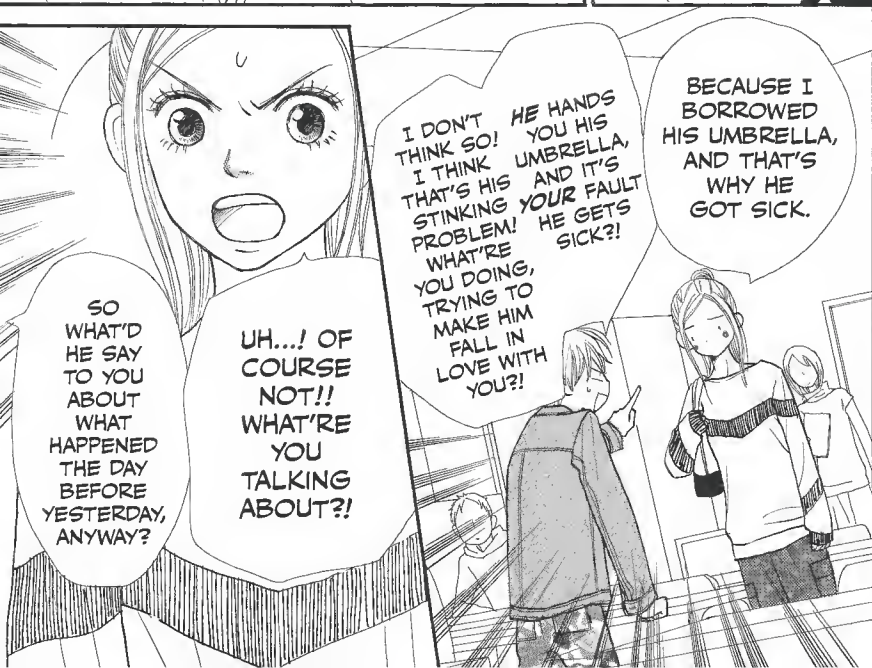
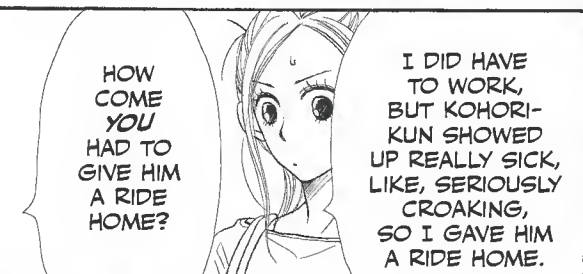
OH.
WELL.

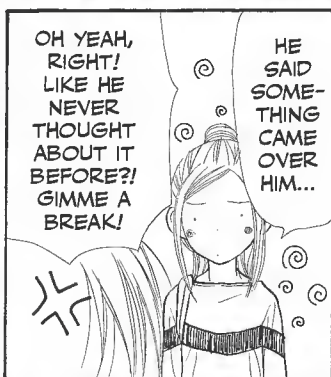
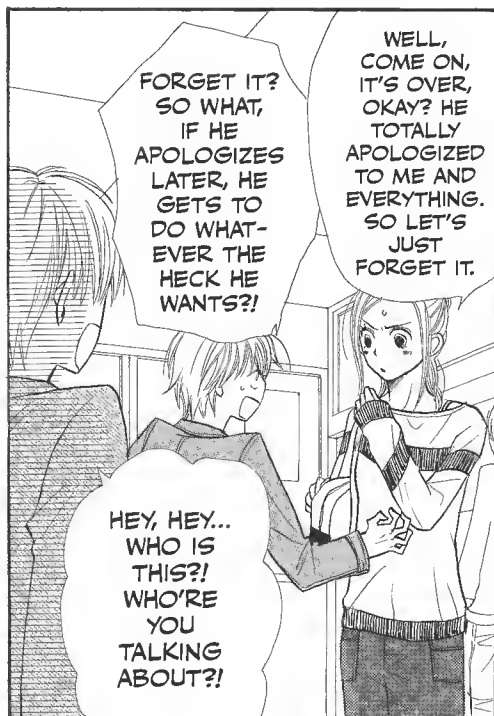
HE SAID
SOMETHING
JUST CAME
OVER HIM.

WHAT?

SO I
GUESS IT
WASN'T
REALLY
SERIOUS
OR ANY-
THING.









GWORRRP

LEGGO
OF ME,
MIDGET!!

O W W W W!

I said,
let go,
shrimp!!

...



WHO'S
THIS
GUY...

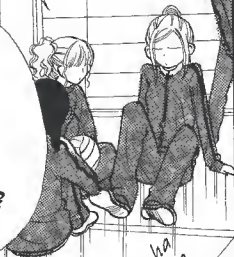
**YOU JUST
SHUT UP AND
BUZZ OFF!!**
THIS IS NONE
OF YOUR
BEESWAX,
AWRIGHT?!
YOU ARE THE
BIGGEST PAIN
IN THE BUTT I
EVER MET!!

O W W W W!

LOOK, HE'S
SUPER-EDGY
AS IT IS, FROM
STUDYING
FOR THOSE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.

WELL,
GOSH...

AND THEN
THERE'S
SOME GUY
MOVING
IN ON HIS
GIRLFRIEND?

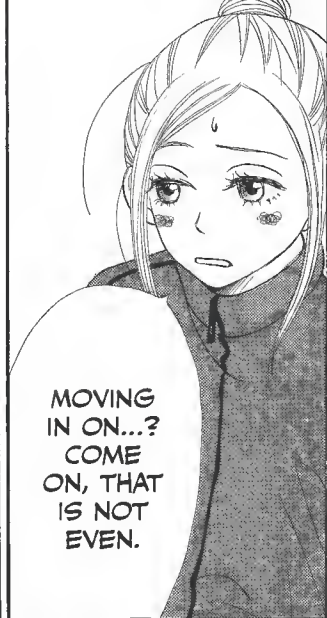


ha
ha
ha
ha

HE
DOESN'T
HAVE
TO GET
SO MAD
ABOUT
IT...



'COURSE
HE'D
GET MAD.
WHAT
DO YOU
EXPECT?





ARRRGH!
I SWEAR,
THAT
DOPE...

WHAT
DOPE?
RISA?

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH HER,
ANYWAY?

PRACTICE?
WHY? YOU
PLANNING
ON GIVING
SOMEBODY
ONE?



G
W
O
R
L
D

NEED TO
PRACTICE
GIVING
NOSE
HOOKS.

HUH?




...BUT IF
SHE DID
FOOL
AROUND
BEHIND
MY BACK,
I COULDN'T
REALLY
BLAME
HER.




OH, COME ON,
OTANI. RELAX.
RISA IS THE
LAST PERSON
WHO'D EVER
FOOL AROUND
BEHIND YOUR
BACK, AND
YOU KNOW IT.

...

HEH?



JUST
BECAUSE
I DECIDED I
WANT TO GO
TO COLLEGE,
WE DON'T
SPEND
ANY TIME
TOGETHER
ANYMORE.




ALL I
EVER DO
THESE DAYS
IS STUDY.
I GOT NO
TIME FOR
ANYTHING
ELSE.

PLUS IT'S
GONNA STAY
LIKE THAT
UNTIL THE
EXAMS'RE
OVER. WHICH
IS LIKE,
A WHILE.

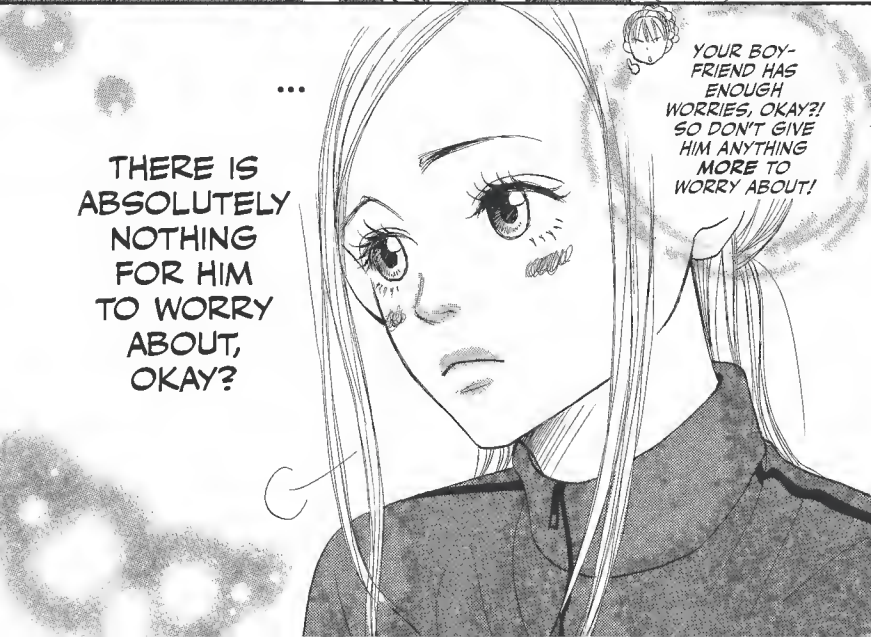
SO IF
KOIZUMI
GOT SICK
OF ME AND
STARTED
SEEING
THAT OTHER
DUDE...

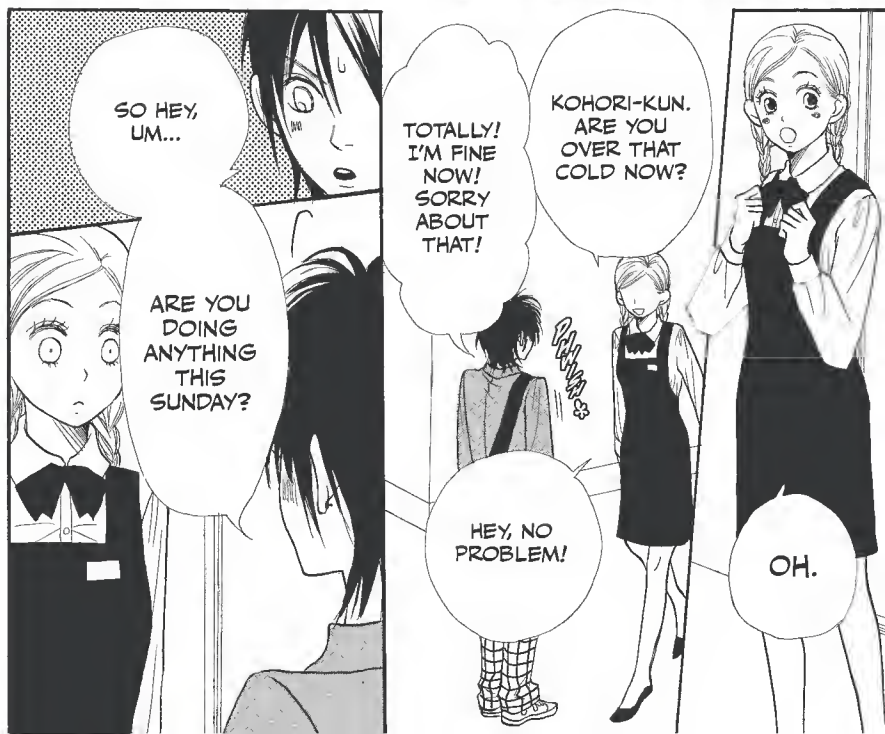
...I DON'T
KNOW IF I'D
EVEN HAVE
THE RIGHT TO
GIVE HIM A
NOSE HOOK
IN THE FIRST
PLACE. I'M
NOT TOO
SURE I
WOULD...



WHAT'S THE
MATTER
WITH YOU,
OTANI? YOU
BOMB ON
ANOTHER
PRACTICE
EXAM?

PWIK









AND THEN
I SWEAR I
WON'T DO
ANYTHING
TO GET IN
YOUR HAIR
EVER AGAIN!
PROMISE!!



JUST
THIS
ONE
TIME!

I REALLY,
REALLY,
REALLY
WANT YOU
TO GO TO
THIS SHOW
WITH ME!



I'M...
NOT
TOO
SURE
ABOUT
THIS.

WELL...
UM.

IS
THERE
NO
WAY...?

...

...BUT IF I GO
TO A SHOW WITH
HIM AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED, JUST
THE TWO OF US,
LIKE A DATE OR
SOMETHING,
ÔTANI WILL
GO TOTALLY
BERSERK.

I MEAN,
I THINK
OF HIM
JUST AS
A FRIEND
AND THAT'S
ALL...

THERE IS
NO WAY ON
EARTH I
CAN GO...
IS THERE?
UH-UH.
I DON'T
THINK SO.

...SO I
GUESS
THERE'S
NO WAY,
HUH...?

GWAGH...

GWAGG-
AMWAG-
GAGOO...

THE
ANSWER
IS NO.

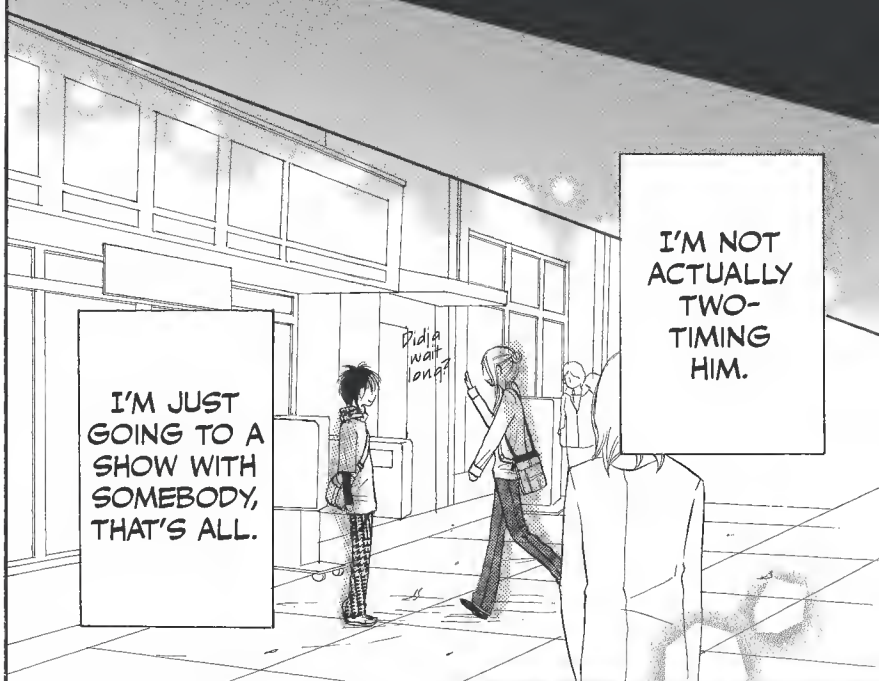
SO I
CAN'T.

NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO
NO!

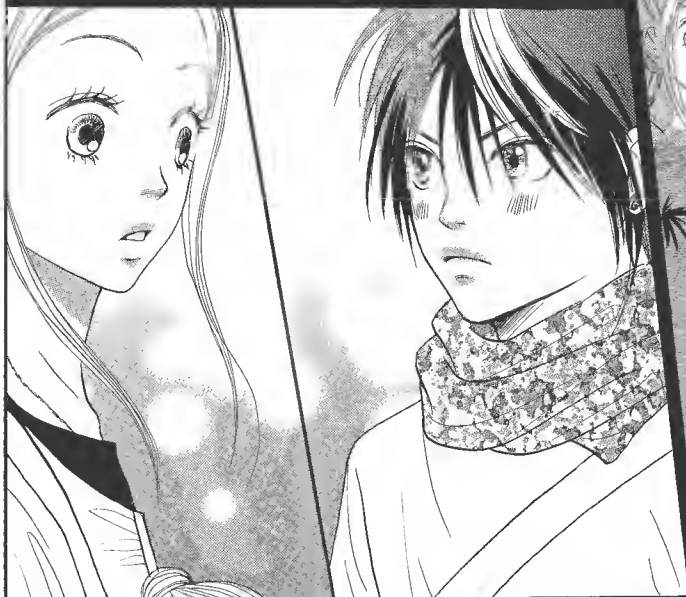






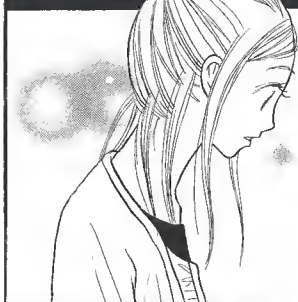






KOIZUMI-
SAN.

UH-
HUH?



I...

WELL,
I JUST
THINK
YOU'RE
REALLY,
REALLY...

UM!



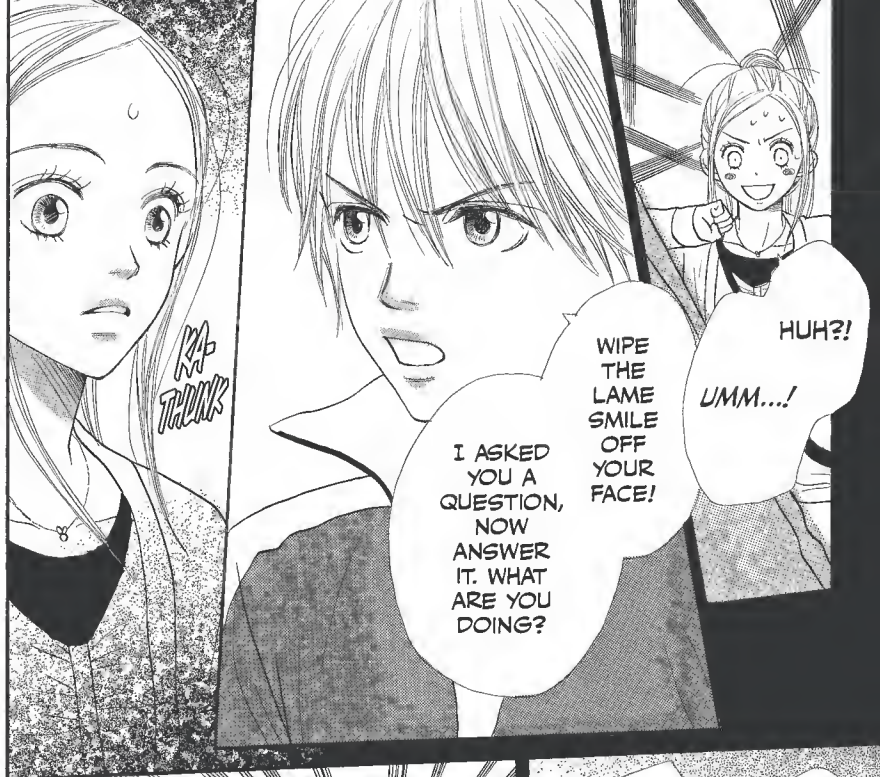


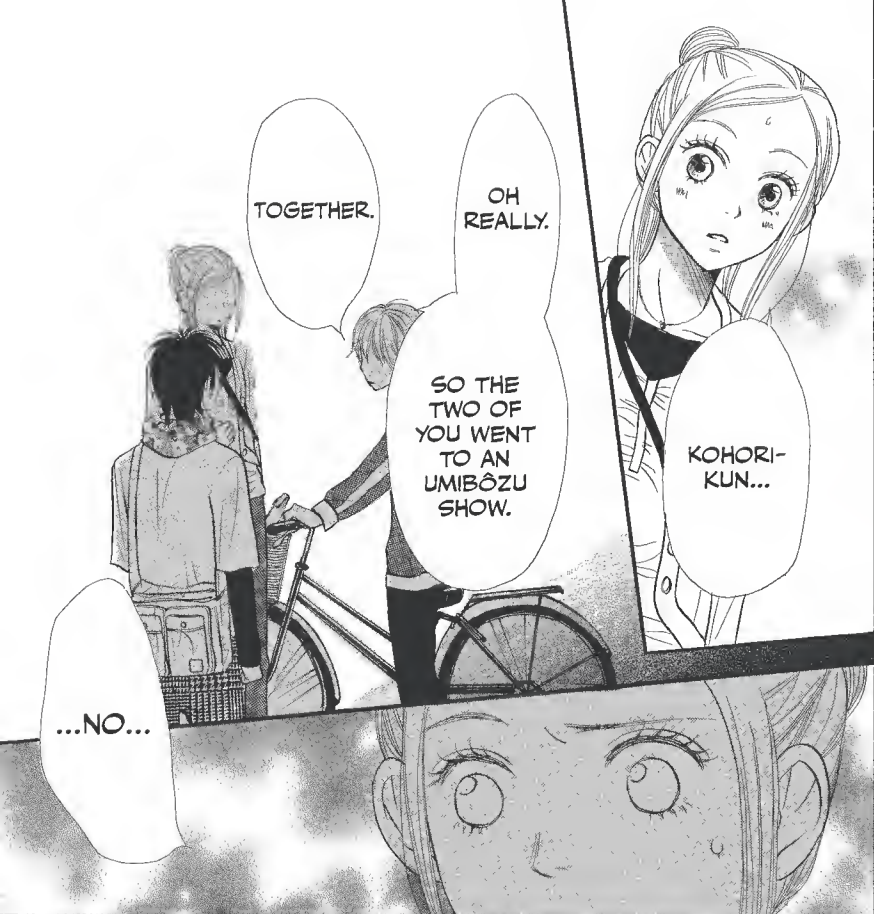
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

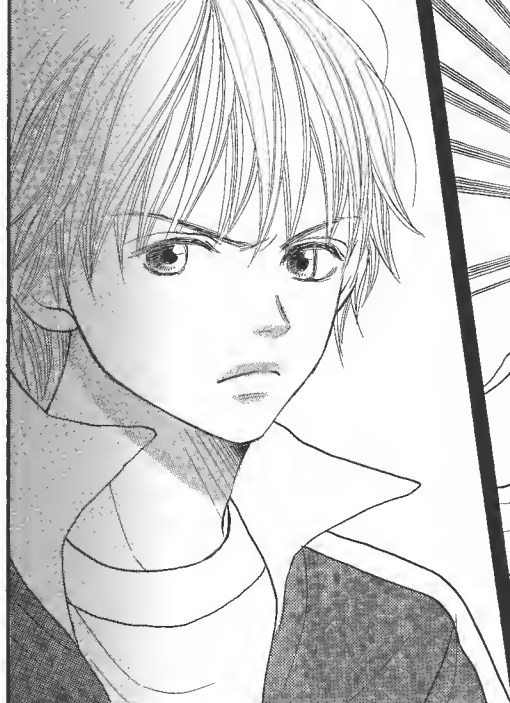
IT'S...
ÔTANI...

Help
me
God!!

GYAARGH!!

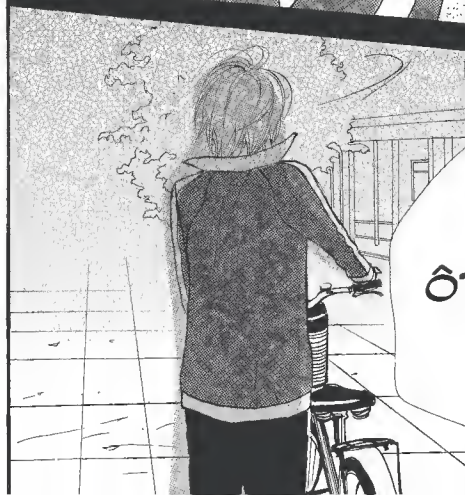






SO
IF...

...ANYBODY
DESERVES
A NOSE
HOOK HERE,
IT'S ME,
NOT...



HEY...

ÔTANI!



I
BLEW
IT.

WHAT-
EVER.

I WAS
SERIOUSLY
STUPID TO
DO THIS...

I DON'T
REALLY
CARE
ANYMORE.

OH
NO.





CHAPTER 39





THERE'S
THIS
UMBÔZU
EVENT,
SEE.

I REALLY, REALLY,
REALLY WANT YOU
TO GO WITH ME!
JUST THIS ONE TIME!

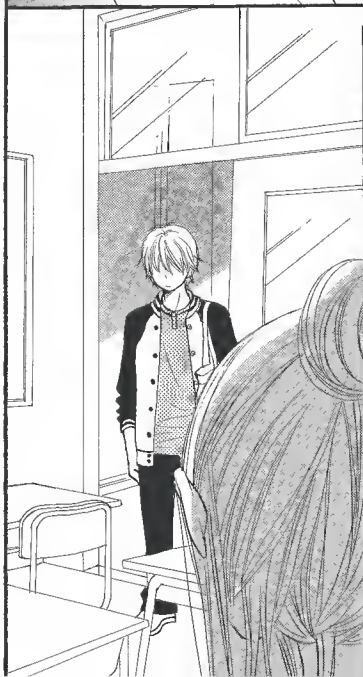
I JUST...
COULDN'T
SAY NO...

SO...



WHAT'D
YOU HAVE
TO GO
DO SOME-
THING
LIKE THAT
FOR?!

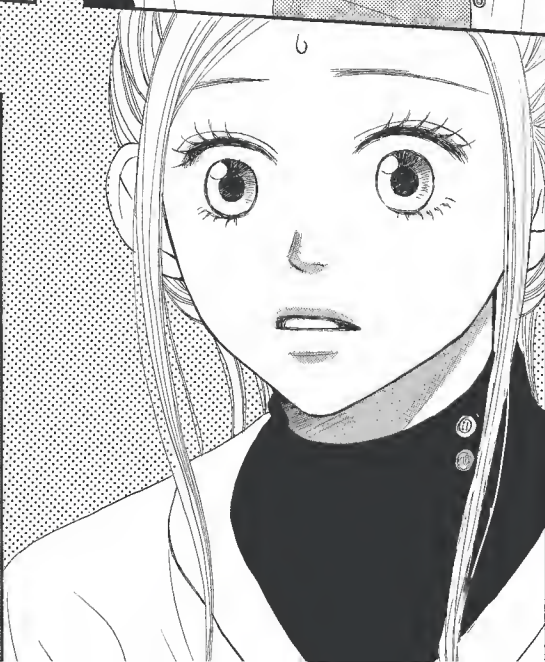
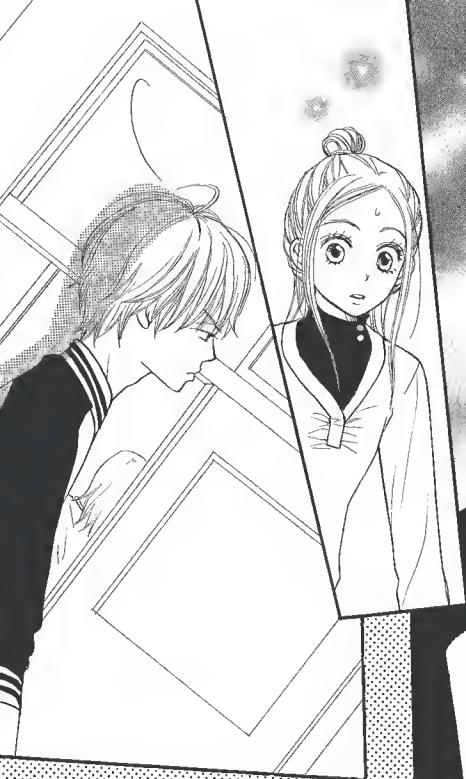
I
don't
know
...

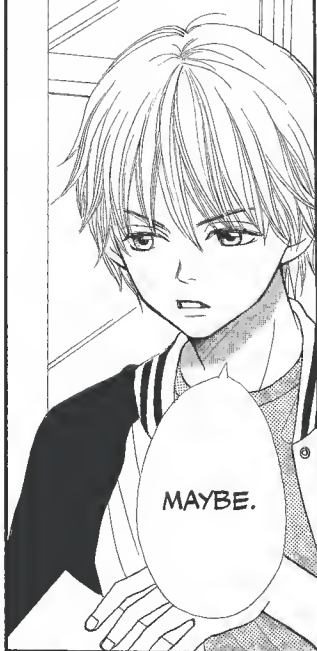


ÔTANI.

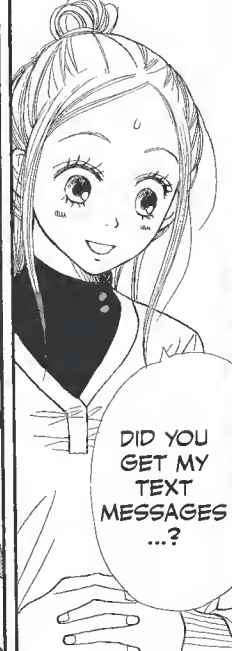
THAT
DOES
NOT
COUNT
AS A
REASON!!

HEY.

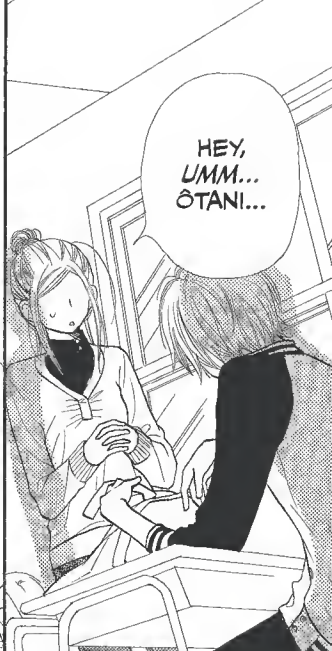




MAYBE.



DID YOU
GET MY
TEXT
MESSAGES
...?

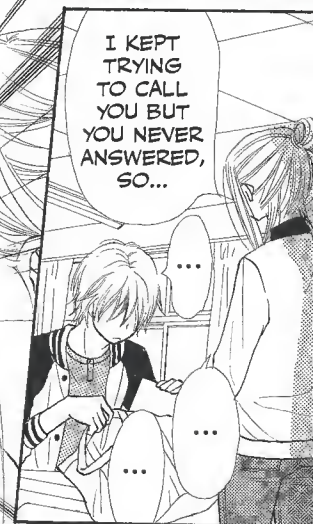


HEY,
UMM...
ÔTANI...

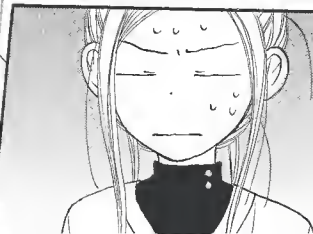


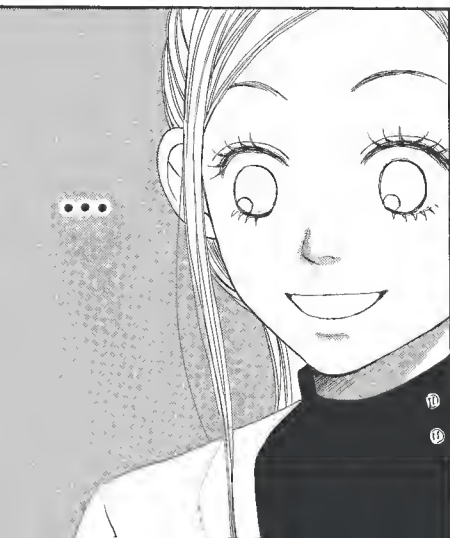
I'M
REALLY,
REALLY
SORRY,
I SWEAR
THAT
WASN'T...!

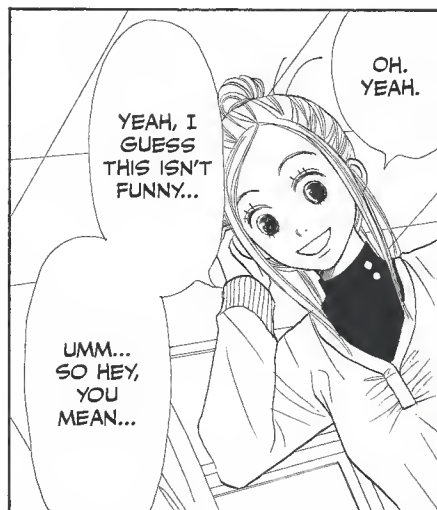
**JUST
SHUT UP,
SCUM-
BAG!!
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!!**



I KEPT
TRYING
TO CALL
YOU BUT
YOU NEVER
ANSWERED,
SO...



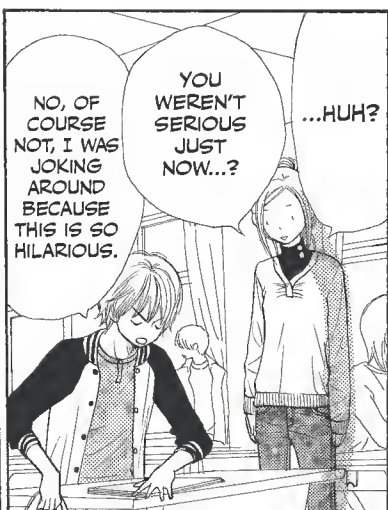




YEAH, I
GUESS
THIS ISN'T
FUNNY...

OH.
YEAH.

UMM...
SO HEY,
YOU
MEAN...



NO, OF
COURSE
NOT, I WAS
JOKING
AROUND
BECAUSE
THIS IS SO
HILARIOUS.

YOU
WEREN'T
SERIOUS
JUST
NOW...?

...HUH?

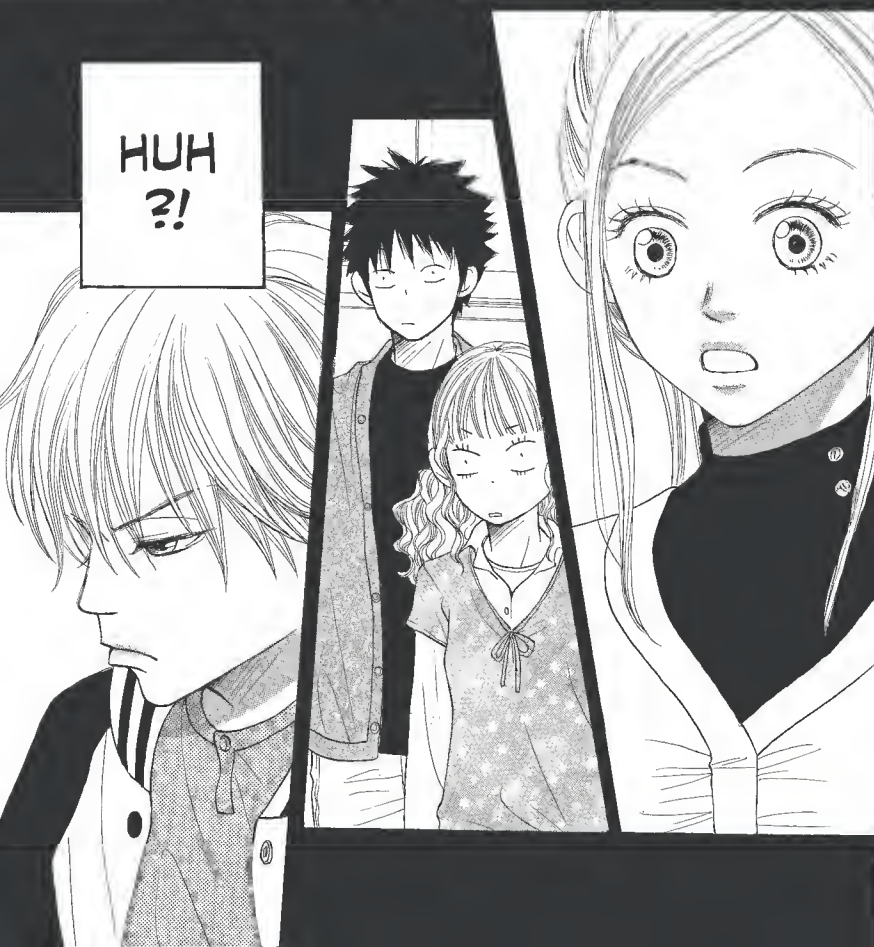


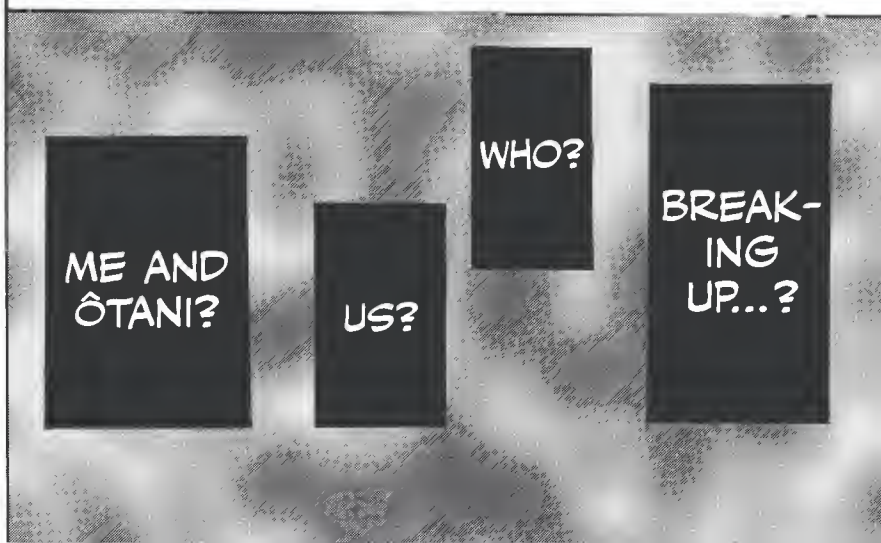
YEAH.
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I
MEAN.



YOU'RE
BREAK-
ING UP...

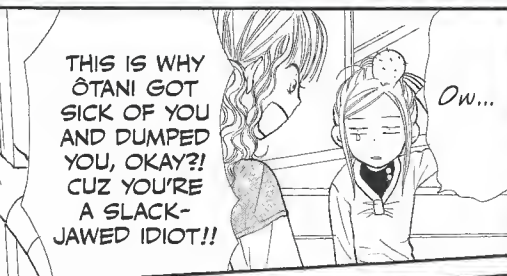
...WITH
ME?





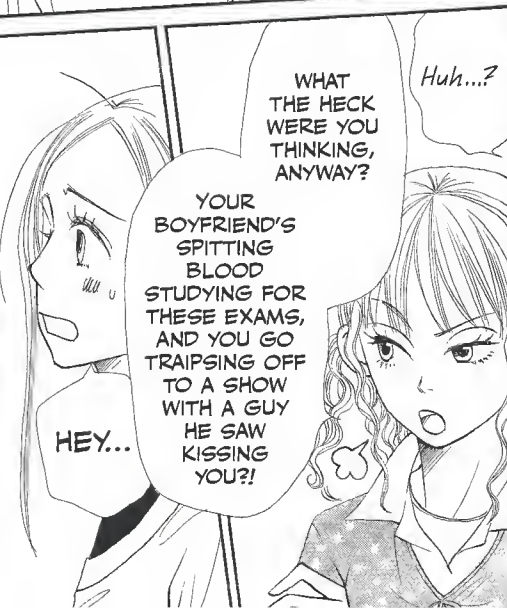


WE'RE
BREAK-
ING
UP...?



THIS IS WHY
ÔTANI GOT
SICK OF YOU
AND DUMPED
YOU, OKAY?!
CUZ YOU'RE
A SLACK-
JAWED IDIOT!!

Ow...



WHAT
THE HECK
WERE YOU
THINKING,
ANYWAY?

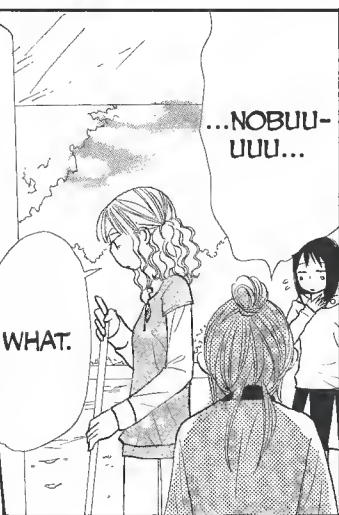
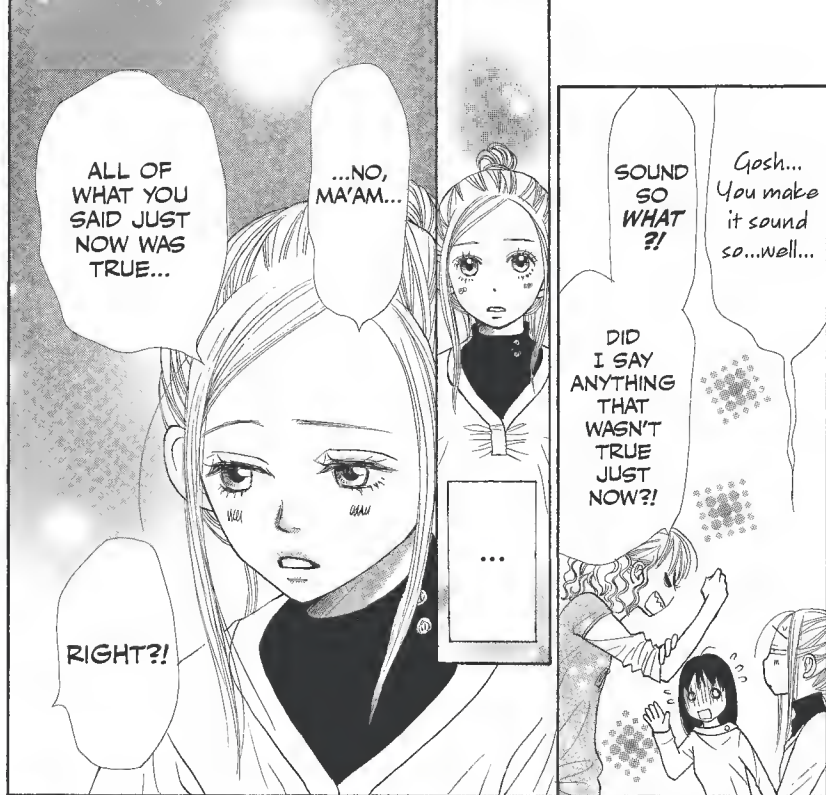
Huh...?

YOUR
BOYFRIEND'S
SPITTING
BLOOD
STUDYING FOR
THESE EXAMS,
AND YOU GO
TRAIPSING OFF
TO A SHOW
WITH A GUY
HE SAW
KISSING
YOU?!

HEY...

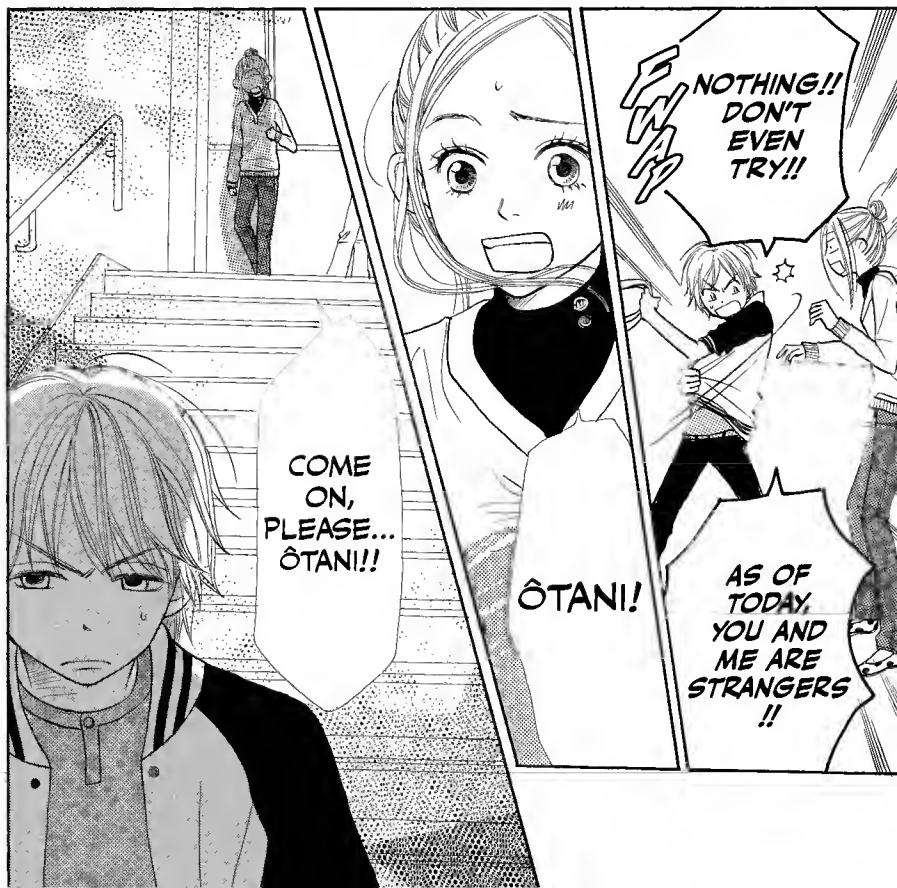


WILL
YOU
JUST
SNAP
OUT
OF IT?!











THAT'S
IT. *THE*
END.

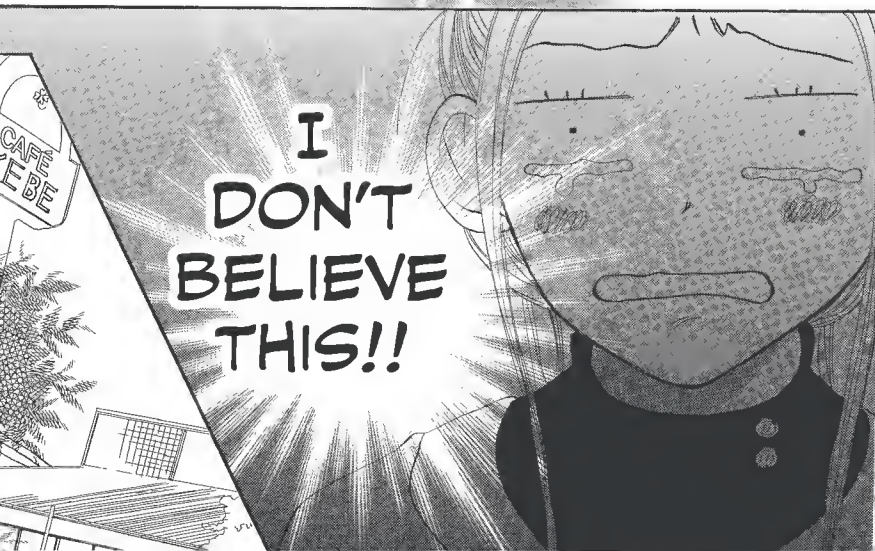
UH-OH.
SHE'S IN
TROUBLE.

NONO

IS
THIS
FOR
REAL
...?

...NO
WAY...

OH
MY
GOD
...



I
DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS!!

CAFE
EBE



ÔTANI
DIDN'T
REALLY
MEAN
THAT,
DID
HE...?

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP

TH-
THUMP

I
CAN'T
EVEN...

I
MEAN,
US
BREAK
UP...?

KOIZUMI-
SAN.

FRUM
FRUM

IT WAS
JUST
A HEAT-
OF-THE-
MOMENT
THING,
RIGHT...?



OH.
KOHORI-
KUN...





BUT
WASN'T
HE, LIKE,
SUPER-
MAD AT
YOU?

OH,
UMM...
YEAH.



...WITH
YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND,
AFTER
THAT...?

WERE
THINGS
OKAY...

HUH?!



WE'RE
ALWAYS
LIKE THAT,
SO HEY...
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
REALLY!

OH,
I GET
YELLED
AT BY HIM
ALL THE
TIME CUZ
I'M SO
STUPID.



WELL,
I MEAN,
GOSH.

GOTTA
GO!
I'LL
SEE
YOU.

KOIZUMI-
SAN,
CAN YOU
COME
HERE A
MINUTE?

YOU
MEAN HE
ALWAYS
TALKS TO
YOU LIKE
THAT?

B-
BUT...!

OH,
YES, I'M
COMING!



KOIZUMI-SAN!

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT...



WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO TELL HIM?

THAT ÔTANI ISN'T EVEN MY BOY-FRIEND ANYMORE ...?

...



YEAH, BUT...

OHO! SOUNDS LIKE KOIZUMI-SAN'S SMASHED ANOTHER GLASS. BEEN A WHILE.

KA-SHAANK

I AM SO SORRY, ÔTANI.

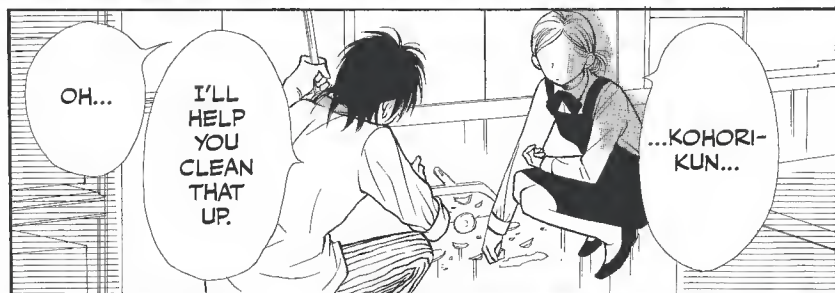
ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS KOIZUMI-SAN? CUZ I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.

Like "wagh" or "whoops-a-daisy."



PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME,
BECAUSE
I'M VERY
SORRY.

I WAS
REALLY,
REALLY
STUPID.



OH...

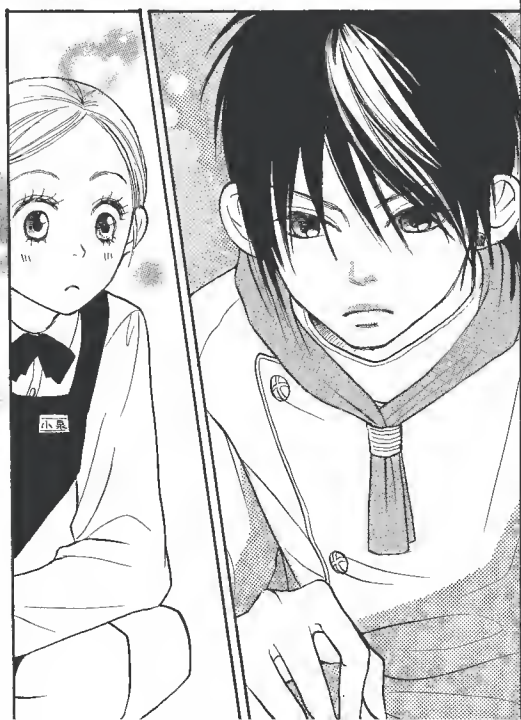
I'LL
HELP
YOU
CLEAN
THAT
UP.


...KOHORI-
KUN...



THANK
YOU.

...SO
PLEASE,
ÔTANI.





...Koi-
zumi...

...TELL
ME YOU
DIDN'T
MEAN
THAT
ABOUT
US
BREAKING
UP...?



YOU
CALLED
ME OUT
HERE TO
WAVE
THAT
THING
IN MY
FACE?!

SO
WHAT
ARE
THEY,
THEN?

I HAPPEN
TO BE A
VERY BUSY
GUY!!




YOUR
THOUGHTS.

WHAT
THE
HECK
IS
THAT?

Sorry
about
what I
said to
you the
other
day.



YOU
BET I
AM!!



YOUR
THOUGHTS.
ARE YOU
REALLY
BREAKING
UP WITH
RISA?

WHAT
ARE
WHAT?!



I MEAN
FOREVER!!
YOU WANT
THAT IN
ENGLISH?
F-O-L-E-
V-E-R!

WHADDAYA
MEAN, HOW
LONG?!



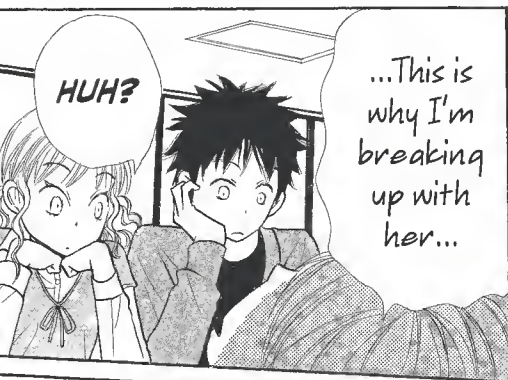
HUNH?

FOR
HOW
LONG?



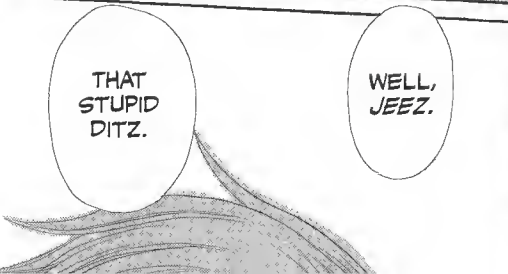
X Folever
○ Forever

WRONG.



HUH?

...This is
why I'm
breaking
up with
her...



THAT
STUPID
DITZ.

WELL,
JEEZ.




KWQ

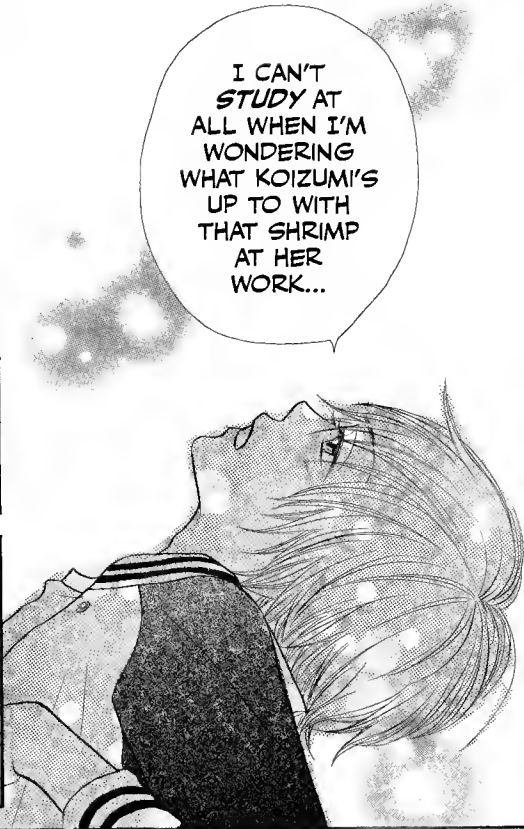
YOU
REALLY
THINK
HE'S
GONNA
PASS
THOSE
EXAMS?



THAT
BIG
DOPE
...



OH YEAH, AND
BREAKING UP
WITH HER IS
GOING TO
CHANGE THAT?
I DON'T
THINK SO.



I CAN'T
STUDY AT
ALL WHEN I'M
WONDERING
WHAT KOIZUMI'S
UP TO WITH
THAT SHRIMP
AT HER
WORK...



PWIK

LOOK, I REALLY
CHEWED HER
OUT OVER THIS
TOO, OKAY? AND
I KNOW THAT
RISA'S FEELING
REALLY BAD
ABOUT WHAT
SHE DID.



BOY'S
IT **NICE**
TO HAVE
HER
OFF MY
MIND!!

CUZ I AM
THROUGH
WITH HER
NOW!!

WELL,
I **DO**
THINK
SO!!

UH-
HUH.



OH,
REALLY.

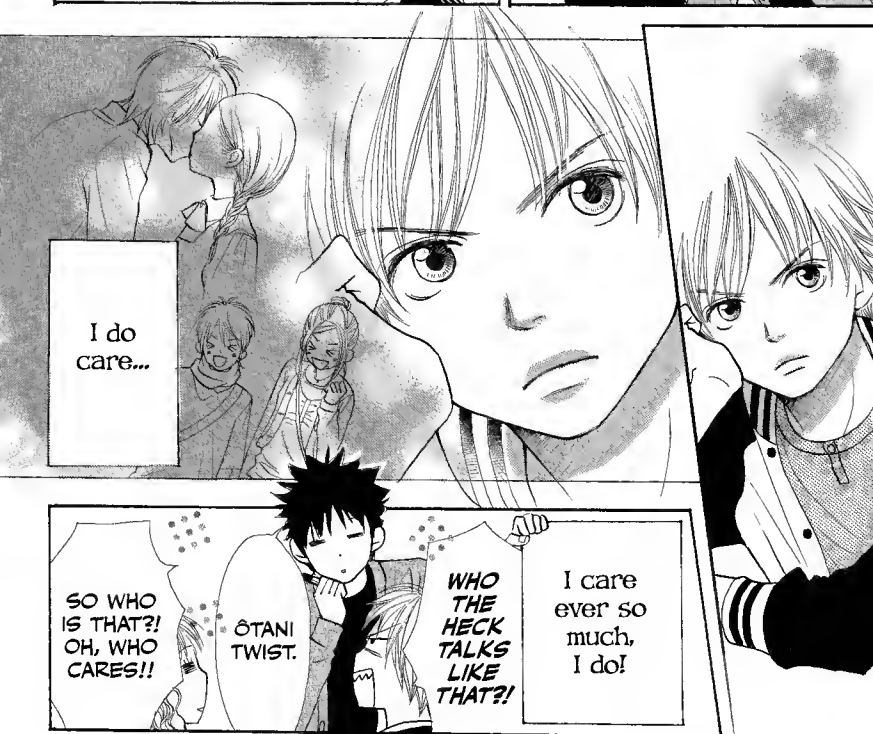
LET
HER DO
WHATEVER
SHE
WANTS,
I DON'T
CARE.

...SO
LET
HER.



WELL, RISA'S
SINGLE
NOW, WITH
NO JEALOUS
BOYFRIEND
TO WORRY
ABOUT.
SHE'S FREE
TO GO OUT
WITH HIM IF
SHE WANTS.

AND AS
SHE STANDS
THERE AT
WORK BITING
HER LIP, TEARS
IN HER EYES,
ALONG COMES
THAT OTHER
SHRIMP TO
COMFORT HER.



I do
care...



SO WHO
IS THAT?!
OH, WHO
CARES!!


OTANI
TWIST.

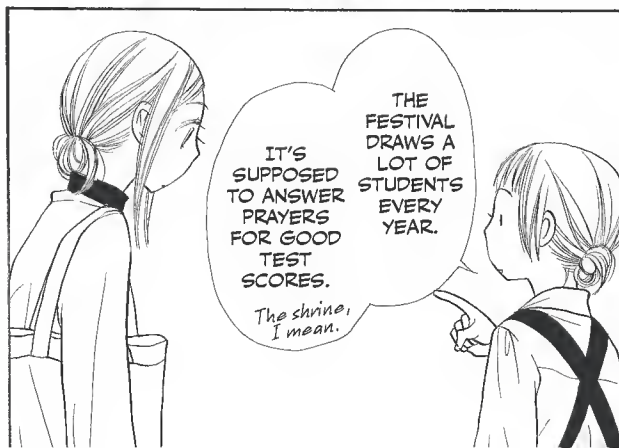
WHO
THE
HECK
TALKS
LIKE
THAT?!

I care
ever so
much,
I do!





While I'm at it, let me plug *Himitsu Kichi* (*Secret Base*), a collection of short manga stories that came out last year (2004).  bow It includes stories I wrote while *Love☆Com* was being serialized. Like one about my boring dad. My dad is not funny. At all. But that doesn't stop him from bothering people with lame puns and one-liners, oh no. He's what Kansai folks call an *ichibiri*. He'll go to the store and say the dumbest things to the clerk and crack himself up. He'll pinch his daughter-in-law's butt when she's riding in front of him on an escalator and get a giant kick out of that. Sometimes I get really mad at him for real... But once every three years or so, he'll do something that's actually funny. Like his Kanbi Fujiyama imitation when we went to a rather fancy Italian restaurant. That was hilarious. He's always asking me to write about him, so I did.



THAT
IS SO
PERFECT!!

Yup

IT IS?!
REALLY?!

BRINGS
BACK
MEMO-
RIES.

WE LOVE YOU!

GO ÔTANI GO!

♥ FIGHT

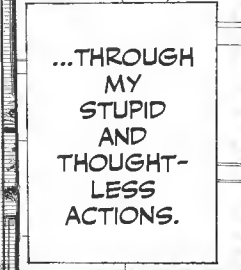
I HAVE
SEEN THE
ERROR OF
MY WAYS
AND FEEL
ABSOLUTELY
TERRIBLE.

FROM NOW
ON, I WILL
DEVOTE
MYSELF
ENTIRELY TO
THE TASK OF
OFFERING YOU
AND YOUR
STUDIES MY
FULL SUPPORT.

I BEG
YOUR
PARDON
FOR ALL
THE
TROUBLE
I HAVE
CAUSED
YOU...

MY
DEAR
MR.
ATSUSHI
ÔTANI,
SIR.

...THROUGH
MY
STUPID
AND
THOUGHT-
LESS
ACTIONS.



SO
PLEASE,
ÔTANI. I'M
BEGGING
YOU...

WHAT'LL
I MAKE
HIM?!

OKAY!
THE ÔTANI
SQUAD IS
BACK!!

DON'T
STAY
MAD AT
ME.

YEAH! THIS
SHRINE'S
FAMOUS
FOR HELPING
PEOPLE
PASS THEIR
ENTRANCE
EXAMS!

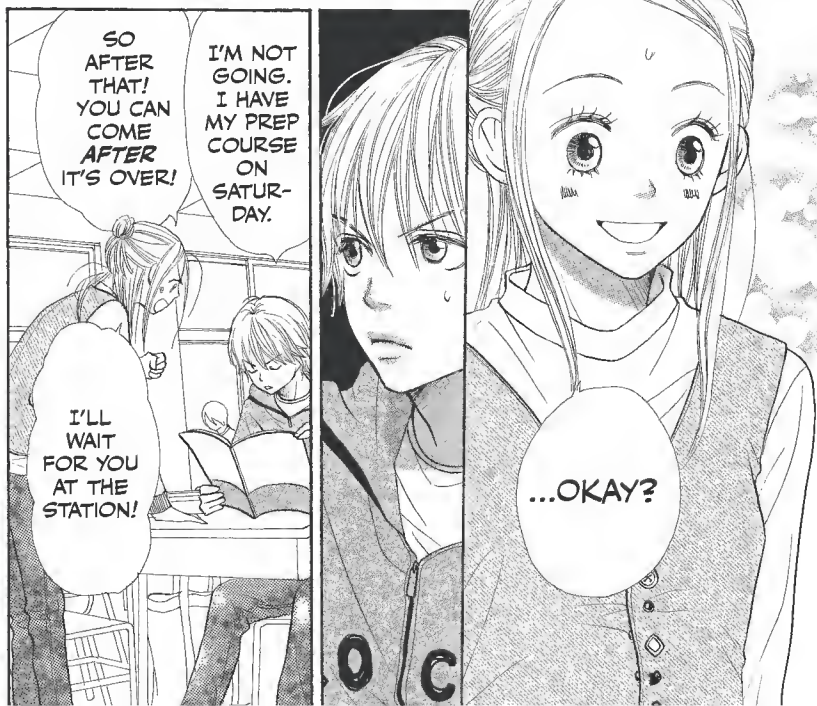
A
HARVEST
FESTIVAL?

I'M
STILL
WORKING
ON IT
RIGHT
NOW,
REALLY
HARD!

PLUS
THERE'S
SOME-
THING
I WANT
TO GIVE
YOU!

...LOOK
...

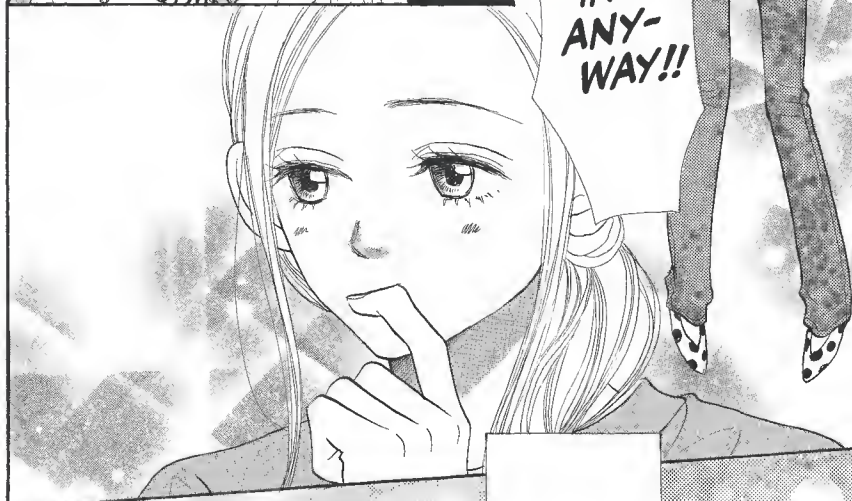
ROCK







**WELL,
I'LL
BE
WAIT-
ING
ANY-
WAY!!**



**I
KNOW HIM,
AND HE'S
COMING
FOR SURE.**

**HE'LL
COME.**



...HE
DOES.
— NO
MATTER
WHAT.

WHENEVER
I REALLY
WANT HIM
TO SHOW
UP...

HE
ALWAYS
DOES.



THERE
IS NO
WAY HE
MEANT
IT FOR
REAL!

HE'S
COMING
THIS
SATURDAY,
FOR
SURE.

SO
WHEN HE
SHOWS UP
SATURDAY,
I'LL
FINALLY BE
ABLE TO
RELAX.

I'LL KNOW
HE DIDN'T
REALLY
MEAN THAT
ABOUT
BREAKING
UP.

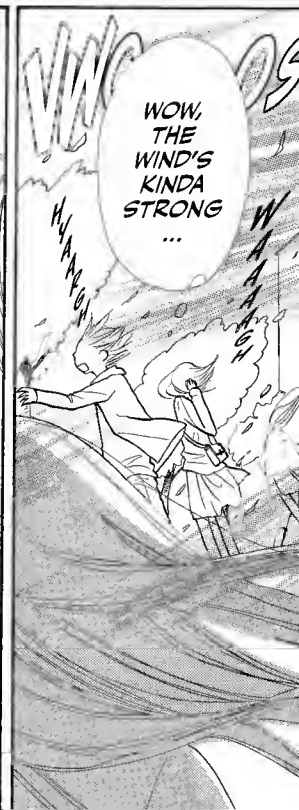
NO
MATTER
WHAT
ELSE
HE'S
GOT
GOING
ON...

...HE
ALWAYS
COMES
WHEN I
REALLY
NEED
TO SEE
HIM.



BWOOOOOFSH

I
JUST
KNOW
IT!!



JUUUUUST
KIDDING!!
I'M NOT
LETTING
YOU OFF
THAT
EASY!!

WELL,
I'LL
BE
WAITING
ANY-
WAY
!!

YOU GET
TO STAY
AND DO A
SURPRISE
PRACTICE
EXAM!! GOD
KNOWS, YOU
GUYS COULD
USE THE
PRACTICE!!

GUESS I
BETTER
GO.

LET'S ALL TRY TO
PASS ON OUR FIRST
TRY!! COLLEGE,
HERE WE COME!!

WHAT?!

ZWOOMF

WHIRL

THERE'S A
TYPHOON
RAGING
OUTSIDE,
SO IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS
TO GO
HOME,
ANYHOW.





WHAT?!

WHAT?!
BUT THERE
WERE BIG
SIGNS IN
THE STATION
SAYING THEY'D
CANCELED IT
BECAUSE
OF THE
TYPHOON!



WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
OUT
HERE?!

I WAS,
UM, GOING
TO GO
TO THE
HARVEST
FESTIVAL...



YOU ARE?!
I MEAN,
YOU SURE
THEY'RE
GONNA
COME?!

BUT I'M
MEETING
SOMEONE,
SO...

BYOOOSH

I DON'T
THINK YOU
SHOULD
EVEN BE
OUT HERE.
IT'S REALLY
DANGEROUS!!



I THINK
THERE'S
NO WAY
HE'S
COMING!!

I mean,
how?!

But
maybe
he isn't
coming
...



His phone
was turned
off, and
anyway I'd
rather just
wait...

HEH?!



WELL...
I'M
NOT...
SURE...

DID
YOU
TRY
CALL-
ING?!

I CAN'T GO
WAIT FOR HIM
IN FRONT OF
HIS HOUSE IN
A TYPHOON
WHEN HE'S
JUST BROKEN
UP WITH ME,
CAN I...?
THAT'S KINDA
CREEPY...

...wonder
what I
should
do...

DO?!

○
○
○

COSPLAY CABA

NURSE
HEAVEN

♥ Inpatient course 60
♥ Outpatient course 40
♥ ICU course
Registration fee ¥4,000

HERE

UM...

Yeah
...?

HEY...

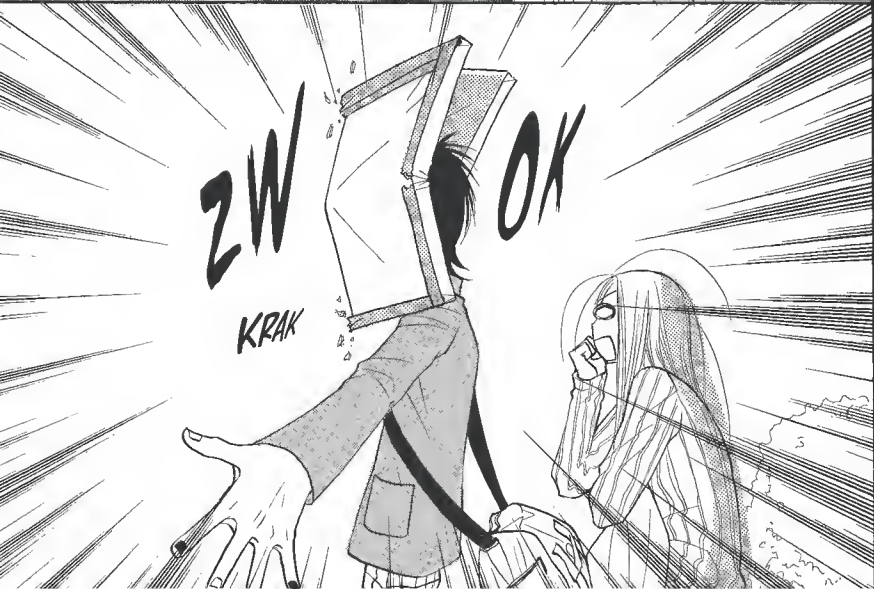
KOIZUMI-
SAN...

KSTUNK

WOOF

VWOOF

SEE
YOU
THERE!





OH
NO...!

ZWAP

VWOOSH!

RUSTLE

TOO

KOHORI-
KUN,
ARE YOU
OKAY?!

UHHH...
YEAH,
I'M
OKAY...



UM,
HEY...
KOIZUMI-
SAN.

FWEEEEE



YEAH
...

YOU'RE
RIGHT
...

HE
DIDN'T
SHOW
UP.



IT'S
OVER.

SO
IT
WAS
FOR
REAL.



I REALLY
THINK YOU
OUGHT TO
GO HOME
NOW. WE
SHOULDN'T
BE OUT
HERE.

Harvest Festival
canceled due to typhoon



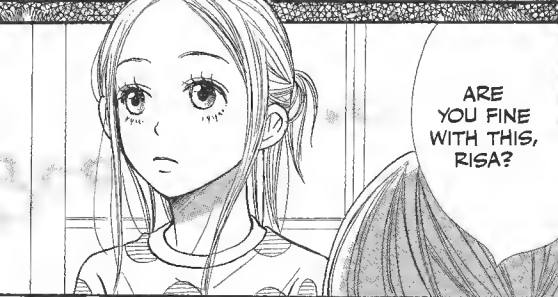
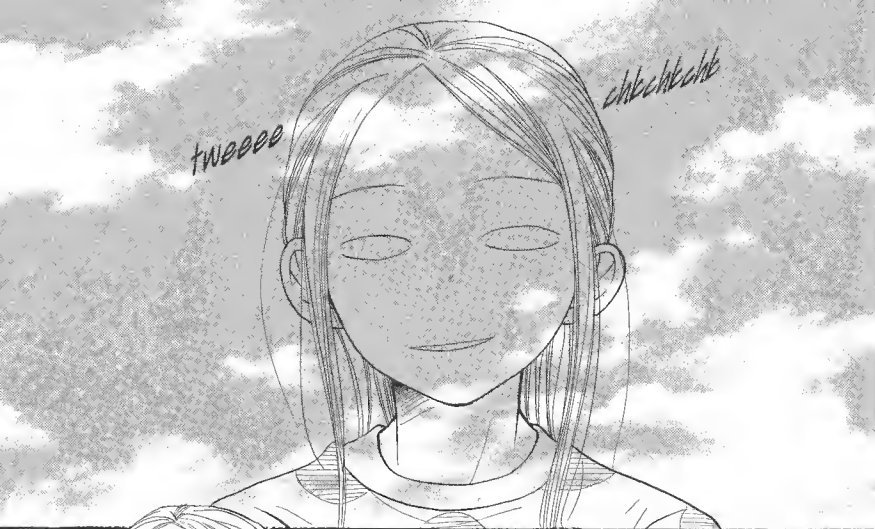
HE REALLY
DOESN'T
CARE
ABOUT ME
ANYMORE.
HE REALLY IS
THROUGH
WITH ME.

OH MY
GOD.
THE TWO
OF US
REALLY
HAVE
BROKEN
UP.

hff

OH, JEEZ,
GREAT...
IT'S BEEN
CANCELED
...

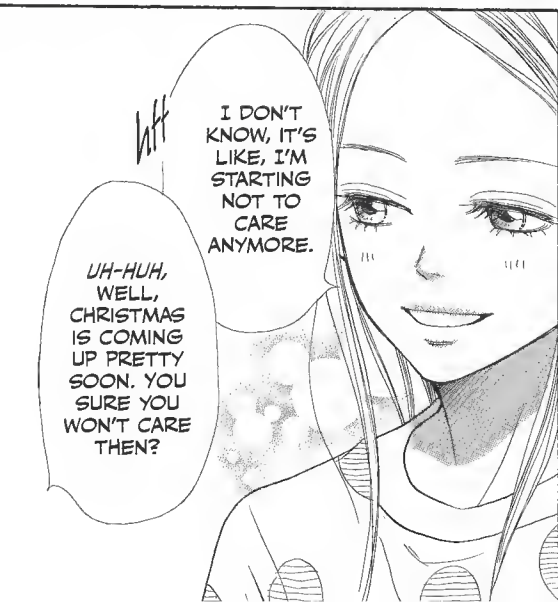




ARE
YOU FINE
WITH THIS,
RISA?



WOW, NICE
WEATHER,
ISN'T IT?
TYPHOON SURE
CLEARED
THINGS UP...



Wf
I DON'T
KNOW, IT'S
LIKE, I'M
STARTING
NOT TO
CARE
ANMORE.

UH-HUH,
WELL,
CHRISTMAS
IS COMING
UP PRETTY
SOON. YOU
SURE YOU
WON'T CARE
THEN?

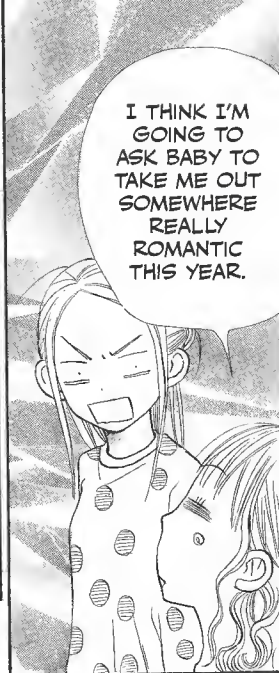


SO
WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA
DO?

ABOUT
WHAT,
MAY I
ASK?



CHRIST-
MAS...



I THINK I'M
GOING TO
ASK BABY TO
TAKE ME OUT
SOMEWHERE
REALLY
ROMANTIC
THIS YEAR.



I.E.
"ROMANTIC
DATE
NIGHT FOR
LOVERS,"
IS JUST
AROUND THE
CORNER.
GREAT.



CHAPTER 40

THIS
YEAR,
THOUGH
...

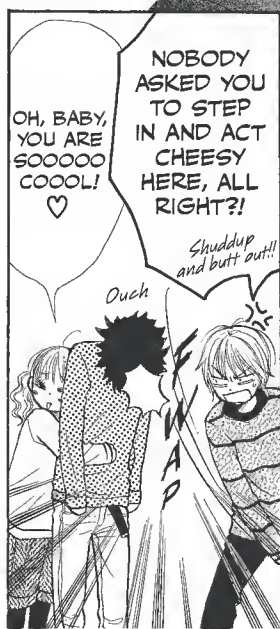
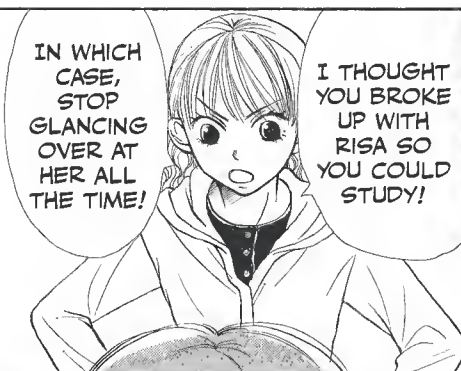
I AM
NOT
GOING
OUT
WITH
YOU
ANY-
MORE!

THAT'S
RIGHT,
BREAK-
ING UP!

...I GUESS
THERE'S
NO
CHANCE
OF THAT
HAPPEN-
ING...

ÔTANI!!

YUI?



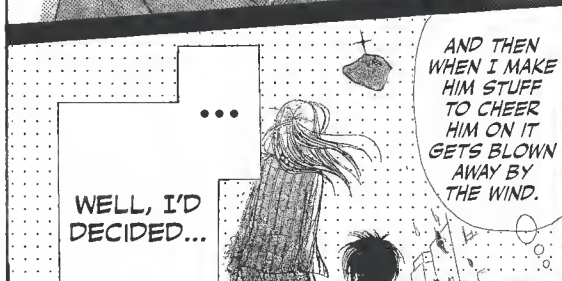


...

I'M JUST
TALKING
TO HER,
OKAY?!

WELL,
EXCUUUUUUSE
ME FOR
NOT BEING
COOL!

LEAVE MY
BEAUTIFUL
NOBU-CHAN
ALONE.



AND THEN
WHEN I MAKE
HIM STUFF
TO CHEER
HIM ON IT
GETS BLOWN
AWAY BY
THE WIND.

WELL, I'D
DECIDED...

SO
THAT'S
WHAT
IT WAS.

I'M
TOTALLY
GETTING
IN HIS WAY
WHEN HE'S
TRYING TO
STUDY...



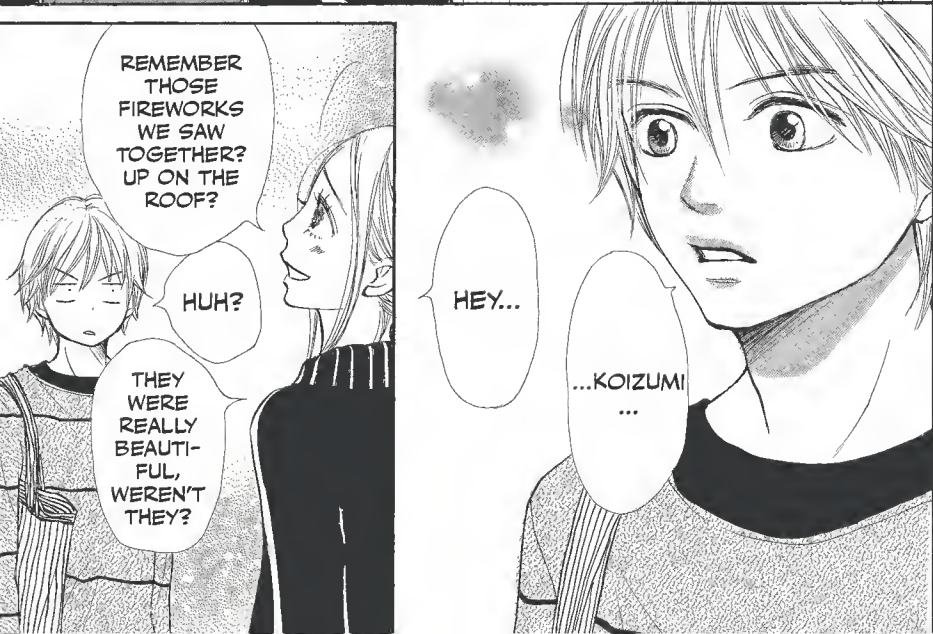
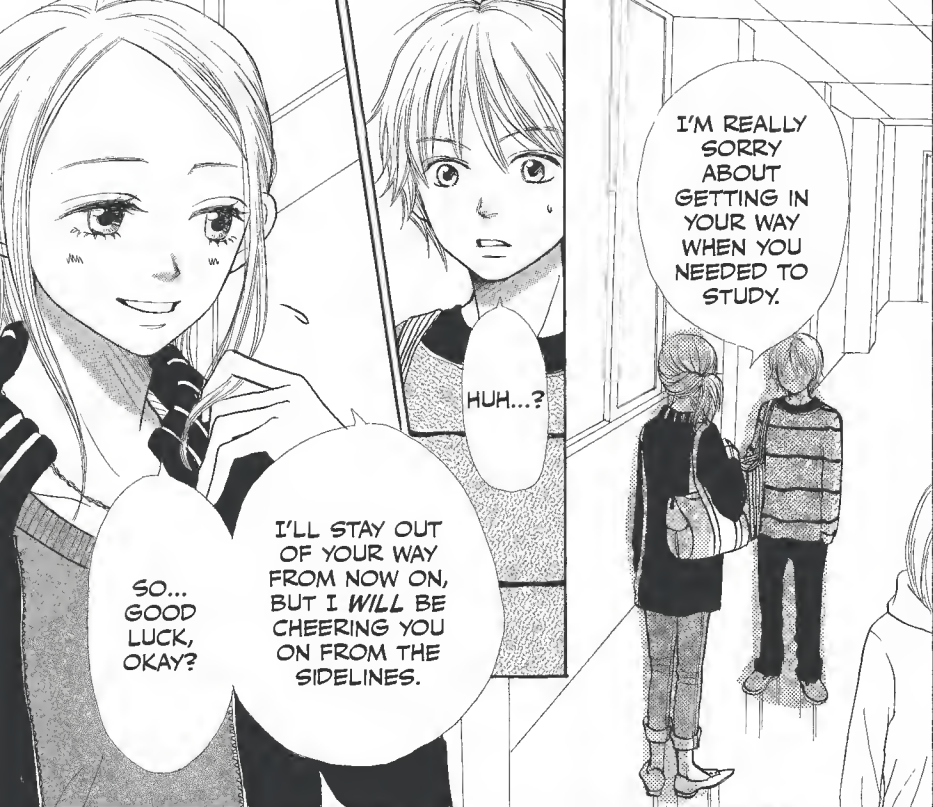
...I WAS
GOING TO
SUPPORT HIM
A HUNDRED
PERCENT.
SO I GUESS
THAT MEANS...

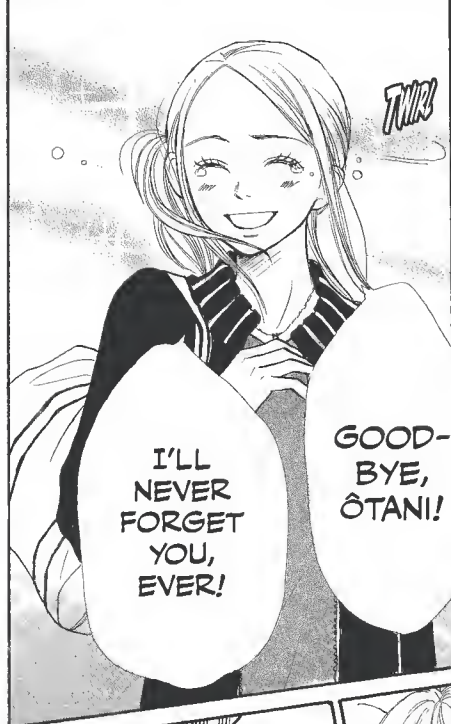
HEY,
ÔTANI?

See
ya!



WELL,
I GUESS
HE'S
RIGHT
ABOUT
THAT...





I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
YOU,
EVER!

GOOD-
BYE,
ÔTANI!



KOIZUMI.

WHAT
THE
HECK
ARE
YOU...

OH,
SORRY,
IGNORE
THAT.
I WAS
JUST
TALKING
TO
MYSELF.



GOOD-
BYE!!

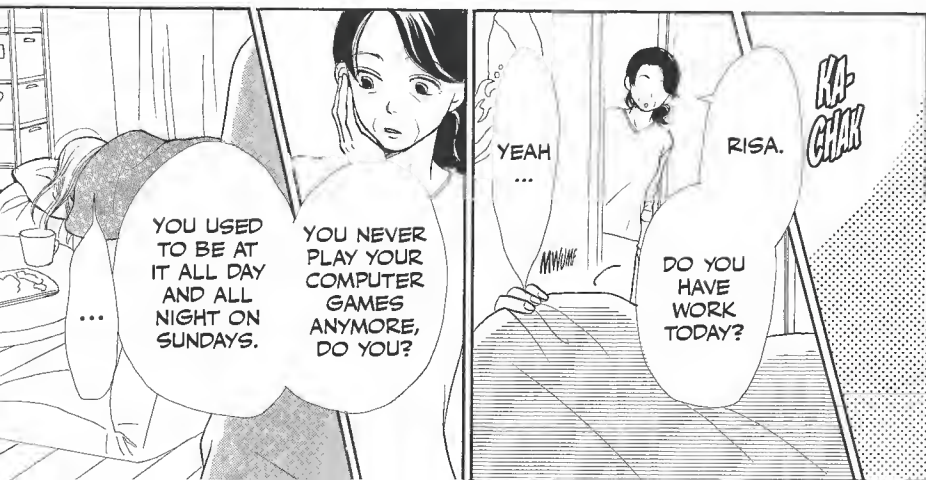
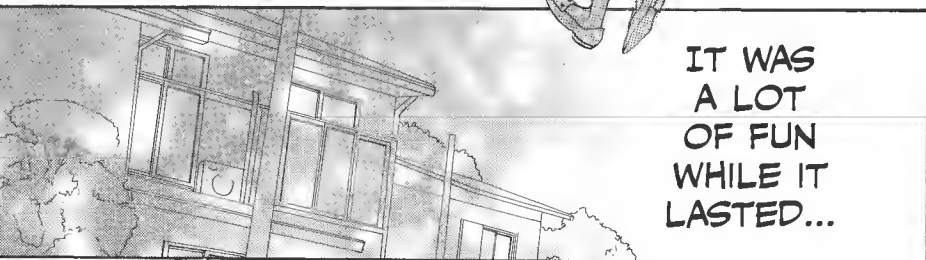
HEY, GET
BACK
HERE! WHO
CAST YOU
IN A SOAP
OPERA,
ANYWAY?!

WAITA
...!



THANK
YOU...

...FOR
ALL
THE
MEMO-
RIES...



I DON'T
CARE IF
YOU DON'T
SPEND
ANY TIME
WITH ME
ANYMORE.

I
MEAN
IT,
ÔTANI.

HUH?
WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

...I'M
INTO
SOME-
THING
ELSE
NOW. IT'S
CALLED
ÔTANI...

*DING
DONG*

I JUST
WANT YOU
TO DO
WELL ON
THOSE
EXAMS.

HUH?

WHAT
IS IT?

MR. YOSHII
BROUGHT
THIS OVER,
SAYING HE
THOUGHT IT
MIGHT BE
YOURS.

...
WHAT
NOW
...?

ATCHA-
AAAN!

YOO-
HOOO!!

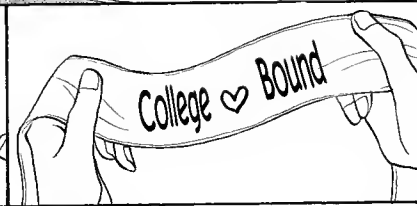
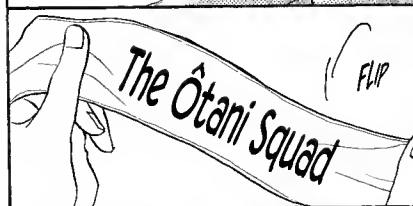




AWWW.
YOU
LOOK
ADOR-
ABLE!



OH, HOW
SWEET!
THIS LOOKS
SO NICE
AND WARM,
ATCHAN!
TRY IT ON,
TRY IT ON!!



HAVE
YOU BEEN
MEAN TO
RISA-CHAN
OR SOME-
THING,
ATCHAN?

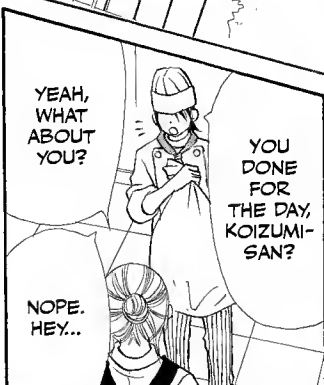
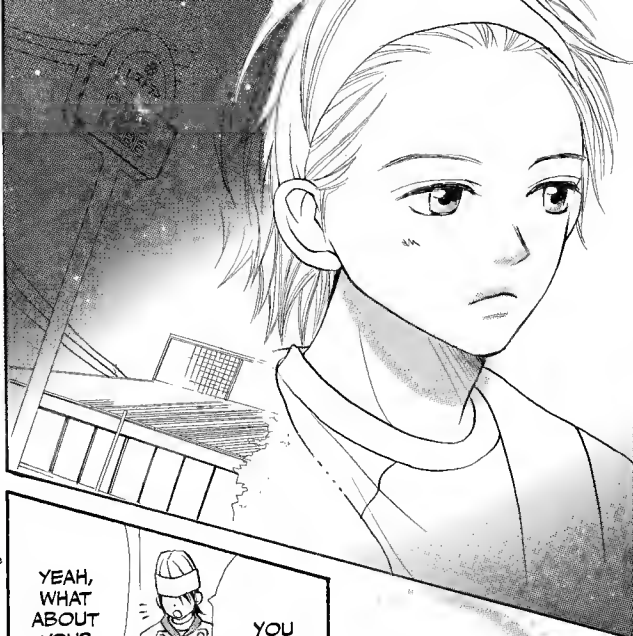
BUT
WHY DID
SOMEONE
FIND THIS
THROWN
OUT BY
THE SIDE
OF THE
ROAD?

IT'S
TWO FOR
THE PRICE
OF ONE...

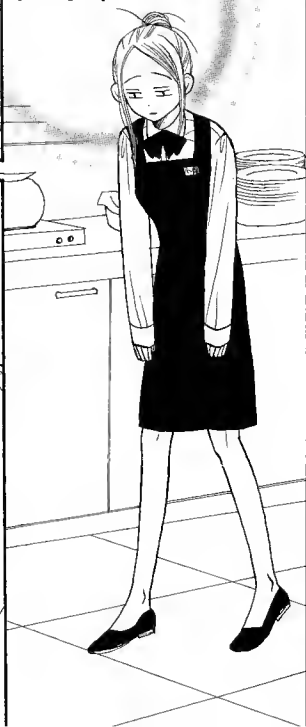
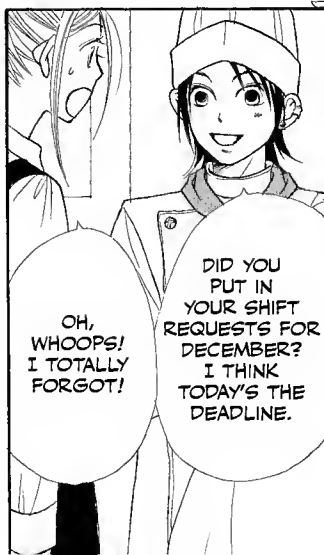


Nail polish is a no-no if you work in a restaurant kitchen! I used to have a job in a restaurant kitchen myself, so I know about these things, see, and I actually drew a scene where Kohori-kun gets in trouble for it. It didn't fit, though, so I had to cut it and never got a chance to work it in anywhere else. So let me get on his case now: Hey, you! No polish! So. Anyway. Thank you for even reading these little sidebars. Next up, Volume III! If you can, please stick around with us a little longer. Well, then, see you! pa-twoo pa-twoo!

Aya
Feb. 2005



OH
GOSH...





YOU
WANNA
COME
TOO,
KOIZUMI-
SAN?

CUZ, WELL,
I HEARD ALL
THE PEOPLE
HERE ARE
HAVING A PARTY
AFTER THE
RESTAURANT
CLOSES.
I THOUGHT
I'D GO.



...CHRIST-
MAS...

DECEM-
BER...

WILL
YOU BE
WORKING
CHRISTMAS
EVE,
KOIZUMI-
SAN?

URGH...
OH!



I HEARD
THE OLD
LADY GOT
PLASTERED
LAST YEAR
AND WAS
TOTALLY
OUT OF
CONTROL!

YUP!
INCLUDING
MIZ
MATSUBARA!

...ALL
THE
PEOPLE
HERE?



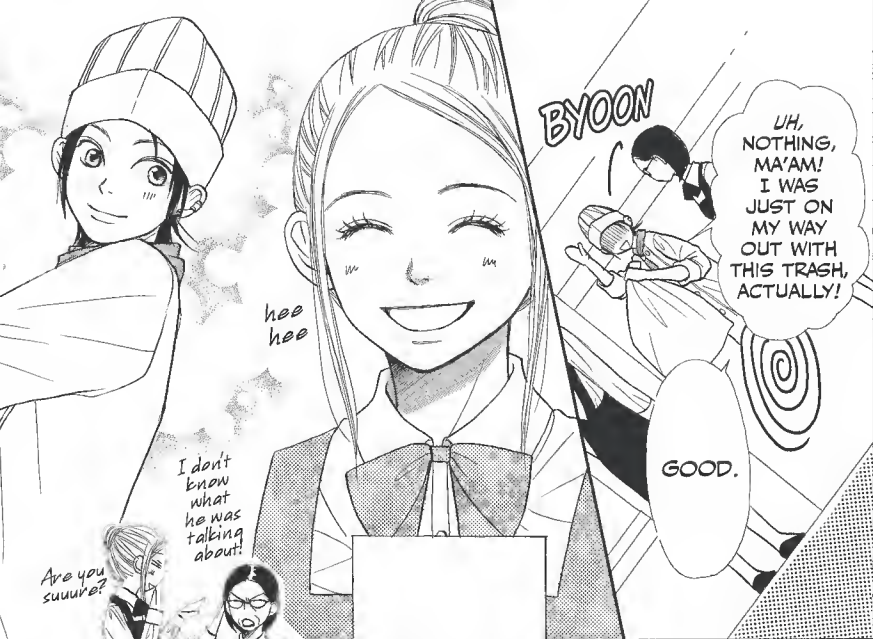
WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT
AN "OLD
LADY"?



KOHORI-
KUN.

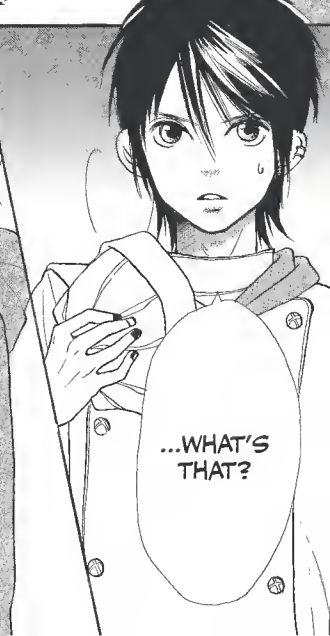
NO
WAY,
FOR
REAL?

MIGHT
BE
PRETTY
FUNNY,
HUH?



CHRISTMAS
EVE, HUH?







...AT
FIRST, I
THOUGHT
...



**SHE
ROCKS
MY
WORLD.**



DON'T
APOLO-
GIZE
TO ME
ABOUT
IT.

I'M
REALLY
SORRY.



I JUST
HAD SO
MUCH FUN
BEING
WITH HER,
SO...

SO THEN
I WANTED
TO HANG
OUT WITH
HER SOME
MORE, AND
STARTED
LIKING
HER EVEN
MORE...

... I'D JUST
GO TO THAT
ONE SHOW
WITH HER,
AND THEN I'D
TRY TO GET
OVER HER.
BUT THEN,
WELL...



HOW
DO YOU
KNOW...

THEN
I'M NOT
GONNA
HOLD
MYSELF
BACK
AROUND
HER
ANYMORE.

...I
GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

YOU
AREN'T
GOING
OUT
ANYMORE,
ARE
YOU?



FWOOO



NOT GONNA
HOLD YOUR-
SELF BACK
AROUND HER
ANYMORE?!
LIKE YOU
HAVE BEEN?!

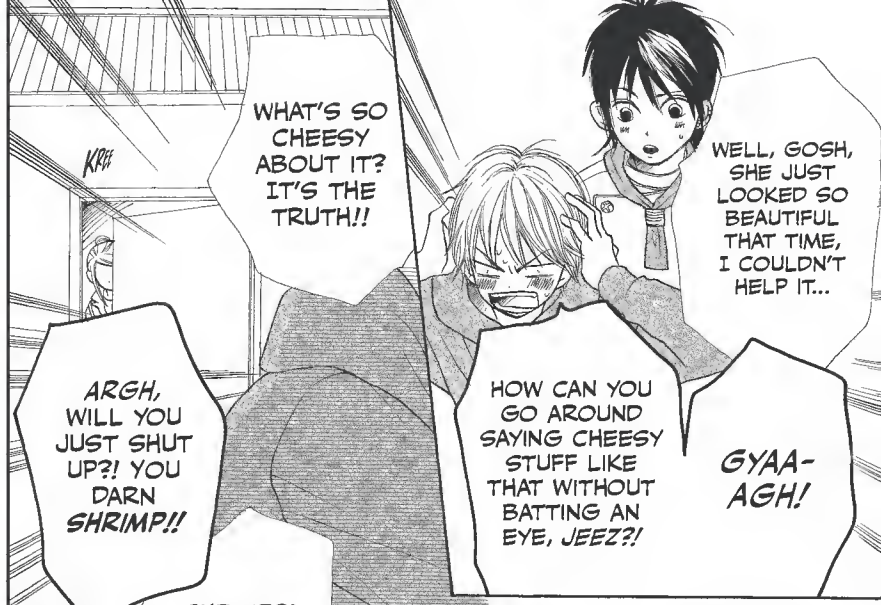
OWW,
THAT
HURT!
WHADDA YA
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?!

I DON'T
CALL
KISSING
HER WHILE
SHE'S
ASLEEP
"HOLDING
BACK"!!



WHAT'S
THAT?!

WHAT'S
WHAT?



WHAT'S SO
CHEESY
ABOUT IT?
IT'S THE
TRUTH!!

WELL, GOSH,
SHE JUST
LOOKED SO
BEAUTIFUL
THAT TIME,
I COULDN'T
HELP IT...

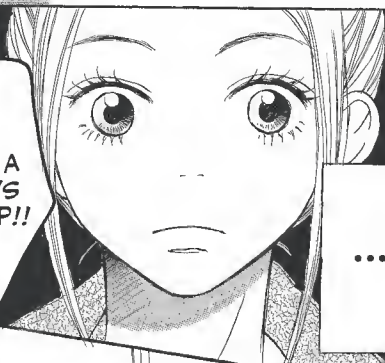
ARGH,
WILL YOU
JUST SHUT
UP?! YOU
DARN
SHRIMP!!

HOW CAN YOU
GO AROUND
SAYING CHEESY
STUFF LIKE
THAT WITHOUT
BATTING AN
EYE, JEEZ?!

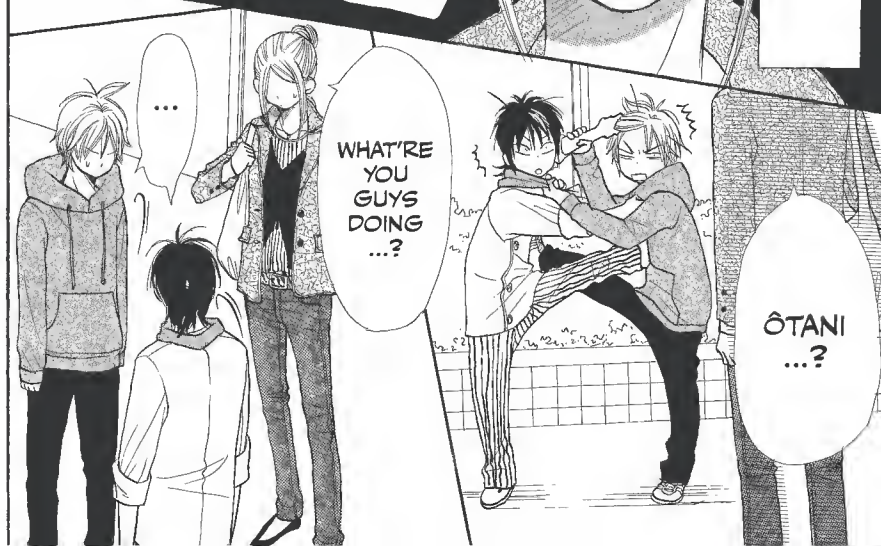
GYAA-
AGH!

SHRIMP?!
I THOUGHT
YOU SAID I
WAS TALLER
THAN YOU!

WHO
CARES, A
SHRIMP'S
A SHRIMP!!



...



WHAT'RE
YOU
GUYS
DOING
...?

ÔTANI
...?



YOU GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH IT,
SO SHUT
UP AND
BUTT
OUT!!

WHAT'RE
YOU
BOSSING
HER
AROUND
FOR?!

YOU
AREN'T
HER BOY-
FRIEND
ANYMORE!

C'MON,
KOIZUMI,
WE'RE
GOING!

HUH?!

HUH?!

HUH?!



THINK ABOUT
CHRISTMAS
EVE, OKAY?!

TTP

ÔTANI!
WAIT UP!

KOIZUMI-
SAN!

HEY!



HUH?

OH.
OKAY!



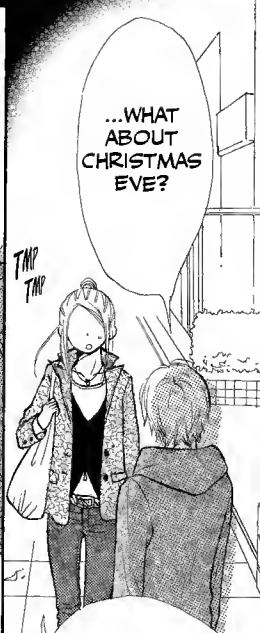
...YOU
DID!?

...AND
THAT
"GO
FOR IT"
JACKET.

...
I GOT
THE
"COLLEGE"
HEADBAND...



OH
REALLY
...



...WHAT
ABOUT
CHRISTMAS
EVE?

TMP
TMP



THIS
POLICE
OFFICER
WHO LIVES
IN OUR
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
BROUGHT
IT OVER.

BUT...!
BUT
HOW...?!



BUT
HEY,
WHAT'S
UP...?
WHY'D
YOU
COME
OVER?



OH...
THERE'S SOME
PARTY AFTER
WORK WITH ALL
THE PEOPLE
FROM THE
RESTAURANT...



THANKS.

...



SO SOME-
ONE
FOUND
IT...?
...OMI-
GOD...

IT WENT
FLYING AWAY
IN THE WIND,
SO I
THOUGHT...

BUT
WOW...
THAT'S
GREAT...



...HEY,
KOIZUMI, I
CHANGED
MY...

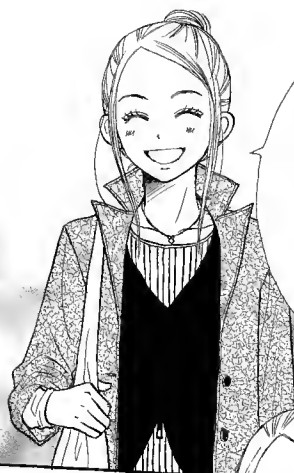
HEY,
ÔTANI
?

...



ÔTANI...

IS THAT
WHY YOU
CAME? TO
TELL ME
THAT...?

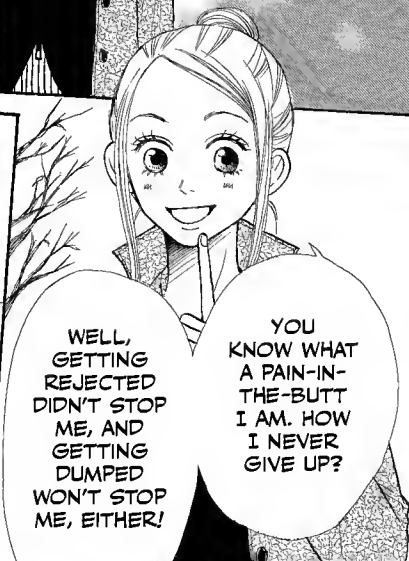


WHEN
YOU'RE DONE
WITH THOSE
ENTRANCE
EXAMS, I'M
GOING TO ASK
YOU TO GO
OUT WITH
ME AGAIN.



SO...

YOU JUST
CONCENTRATE
ON
PASSING
THOSE
EXAMS
RIGHT
NOW.

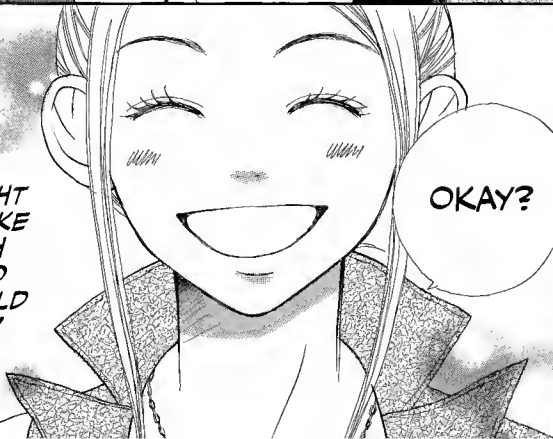


WELL,
GETTING
REJECTED
DIDN'T STOP
ME, AND
GETTING
DUMPED
WON'T STOP
ME, EITHER!

YOU
KNOW WHAT
A PAIN-IN-
THE-BUTT
I AM. HOW
I NEVER
GIVE UP?



I THOUGHT
YOU BROKE
UP WITH
RISA SO
YOU COULD
STUDY!



OKAY?



I'M
REAL
SORRY
ABOUT
THIS.

LOOK,
IT'S NOT
FAIR TO RISA
IF YOU SAY
ONE THING
AND DO
ANOTHER!



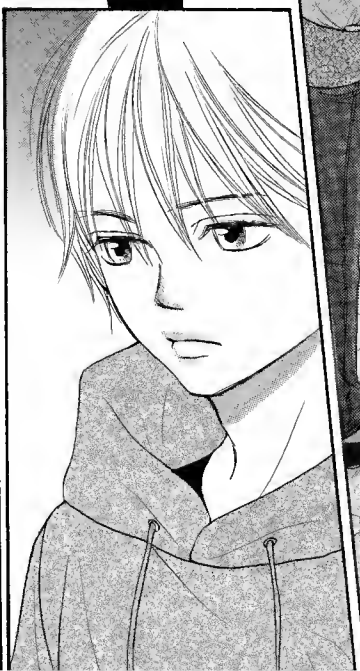
...

OKAY.



HEYY,
I'M
OKAY.

IT'S
NOTHING
FOR
YOU TO
APOLOGIZE
ABOUT!



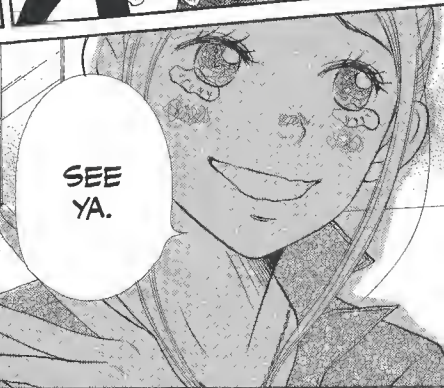


OWW,
THAT
HURT...



BWASH

NOW
YOU JUST
STUDY
REALLY HARD
AND MAKE
IT INTO
COLLEGE!!



SEE
YA.



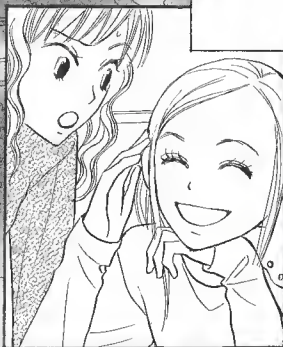
I CAN
START
OVER
AGAIN.
AS MANY
TIMES AS
IT TAKES.

I AM
TOTALLY
FINE.



BECAUSE
I'LL JUST
WORK
REALLY
HARD TO
MAKE HIM
LOVE ME
AGAIN.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
HE GETS
SICK OF ME
OR THINKS
I'M A PAIN.



THANK
YOU,
COME
AGAIN!

SO I AM
TOTALLY FINE
WITH BEING
ALONE THIS
CHRISTMAS.

WELL,
GOSH, IT'S
CHRISTMAS!

JUST
STICK
TO WHAT
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO SAY,
KOIZUMI-
SAN.

AND
HAVE A
VERY
MERRY
CHRIST-
MAS!!



RISA
KOIZUMI
PRESENTS!!

"FISH IN
HELL"!! BY
UMIBÔZU!!

I AM
SO
OKAY
WITH
THIS.



OHHHH...

I
THINK SHE
BROKE
UP WITH
HER BOY-
FRIEND.

LAVES
AWAY

WITH
OUT
A LOT
TO
SAY

WHAT'S
UP WITH
KOIZUMI-
SAN?



CLIZ
I'M THE
BO-Z
AND I'M A
RHYMIN'
CROCODILE

I AM
TOTALLY
FINE...

OHH,
SO HE'S
GOT EXAMS
AND SHE
DOESN'T.
MAYBE
THAT'S WHY.

They never
see each
other.

NO, I
THINK SHE
SAID ONLY
HER BOY-
FRIEND IS.

IS
KOIZUMI-SAN
GOING TO
COLLEGE
NEXT YEAR?



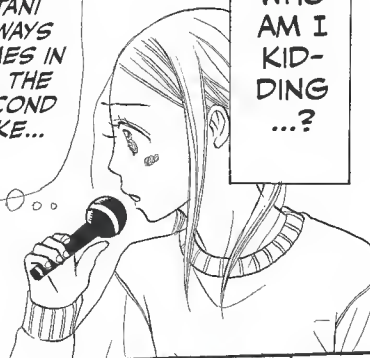
OH
YEEH-

HE
GOES,
"OH
YEEEEAH!"
WITH THE
FUNNIEST
LOOK
ON HIS
FACE...

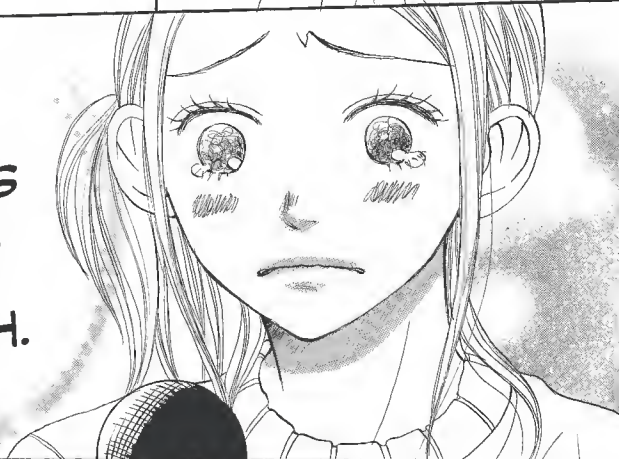
THIS IS
WHERE
ÔTANI
ALWAYS
COMES IN
ON THE
SECOND
MIKE...

WELCOME
TO THIS
UNDERSEA...

OH,
WHO
AM I
KID-
DING
...?



I
MISS
HIM
SO
MUCH.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
ATCHAN!
I BROUGHT
YOU SOME
CAKE.

KA-
CHAK

ÔTANI...





TAKE A
BREAK
SOME-
TIMES,
ATCHAN.
YOU'RE
STUDYING
TOO
HARD.

UH-
HUH...

YOU
LOOK
AWFUL.
HAVE YOU
LOST
WEIGHT?

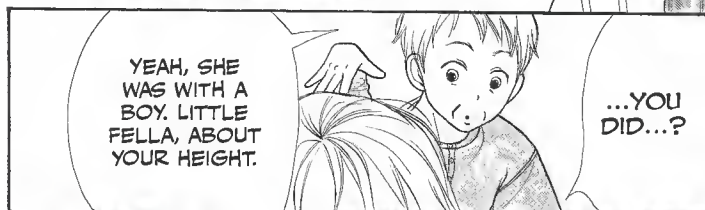


...HUH
...?



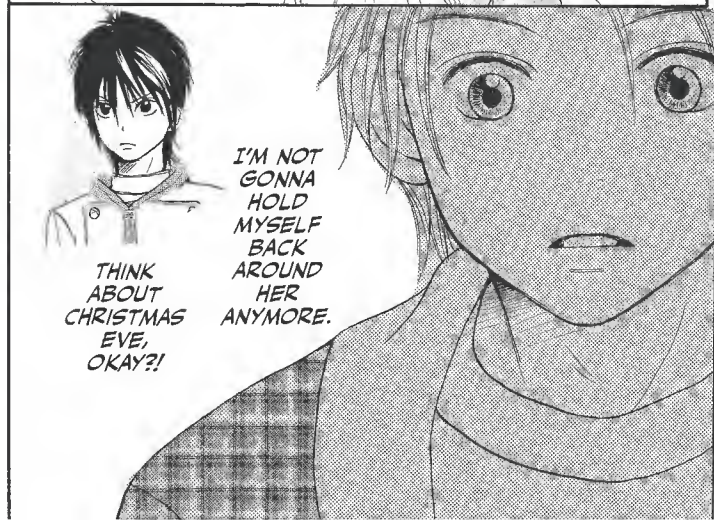
...HUH
...?

YOU DON'T HAVE
ANY TIME FOR
RISA-CHAN THESE
DAYS, DO YOU?
SHOULDN'T YOU
BE SPENDING
CHRISTMAS WITH
HER, AT LEAST?



YEAH, SHE
WAS WITH A
BOY. LITTLE
FELLA, ABOUT
YOUR HEIGHT.

...YOU
DID...?



I'M NOT
GONNA
HOLD
MYSELF
BACK
AROUND
HER
ANYMORE.

THINK
ABOUT
CHRISTMAS
EVE,
OKAY?!



I SAW HER
NEAR THE
STATION A
LITTLE WHILE
AGO, WHEN
I GOT THE
CAKE.

crazy yo

KLAK



YOU
LISTENING
TO ME,
ATCHAN?

YOU BETTER
BE NICE TO
HER, ATCHAN.
NOT MANY
GIRLS WOULD
PUT UP WITH
A BOYFRIEND
AS STUPID AS
YOU ARE.

WONDER
WHY.
MAYBE
BECAUSE
IT'S
CHRISTMAS.



BAM



ATCHAN
?!



KOIZUMI-SAN!!

I JUST REALLY NEED TO SEE HIM.



ARE YOU GOING OVER TO YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S ...?



DON'T GO, KOIZUMI-SAN. PLEASE.

WELL, HE ISN'T MY BOYFRIEND ANYMORE, BUT YEAH.



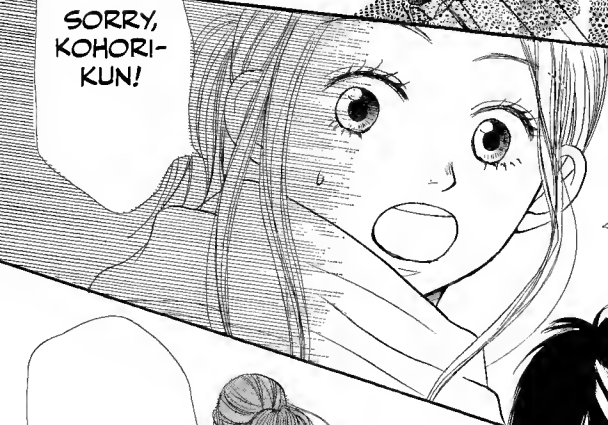
DON'T
GO...

WELL,
SOMEONE
WHO CARES
MORE
ABOUT HIS
EXAMS THAN
ABOUT YOU
DOESN'T
DESERVE
TO...

HE'S
STUDYING,
RIGHT?!
SO LET
HIM STUDY!
THAT'S WHY
HE BROKE
UP WITH YOU,
RIGHT?!

KOHORI-
KUN...

SORRY,
KOHORI-
KUN!




BUT I
REALLY,
REALLY
WANT TO
SEE HIM
RIGHT
NOW!

KOIZUMI-
SAAAN!!



BUT...!





...I COULD
HAVE A
GOOD TIME
WITHOUT
HIM AROUND,
AND I DID,
ALL THE
TIME.

UNTIL
I FELL
IN LOVE
WITH
ÔTANI...



I GUESS
I'M NOT
OKAY
ALONE,
AFTER
ALL.

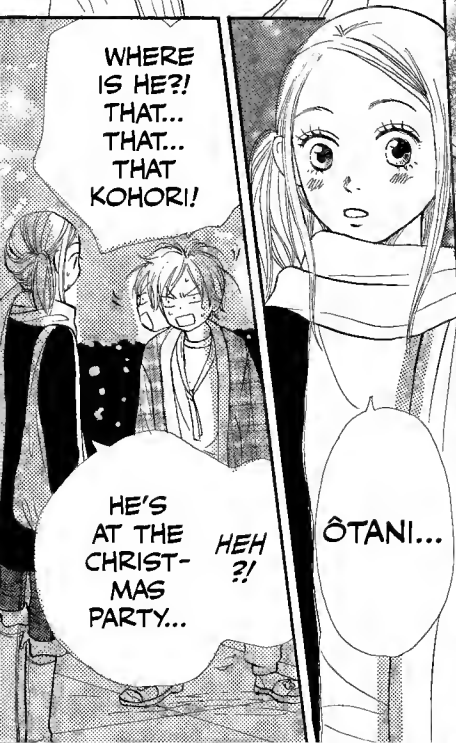


BUT
NOW...

I CAN'T.
I JUST
CAN'T.



I NEED
ÔTANI TO BE
THERE, OR
NOTHING'S
ANY FUN.



WHERE
IS HE?!
THAT...
THAT...
THAT
KOHORI!

HE'S
AT THE
CHRIST-
MAS
PARTY...

HEH
?!

ÔTANI...





...WHAT
THE...?

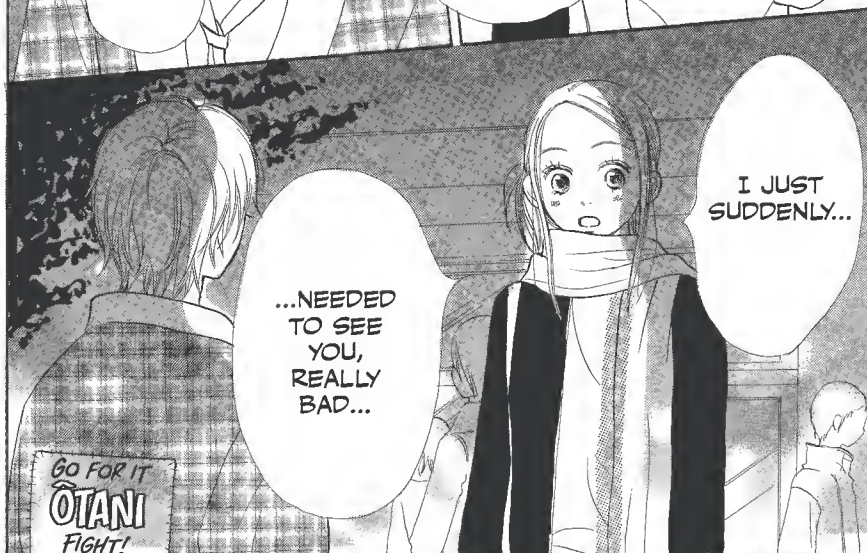
BUT I
LEFT.

I WAS
THERE
TOO,
UNTIL A
LITTLE
WHILE
AGO...

HUH?!

BUT...

SO
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?!



...NEEDED
TO SEE
YOU,
REALLY
BAD...

I JUST
SUDDENLY...

GO FOR IT
OTANI
FIGHT!



GO...

I JUST
WANTED
TO SEE
YOUR
FACE,
AND THEN
I WAS
GONNA...

I WASN'T
GOING TO
BOTHER
YOU WHEN
YOU WERE
STUDYING!

OH,
UM!





...I'M
SORRY.

...ÔTANI...

...



BUT...

I
MEAN...

YOU
HAVE TO
STUDY...

NUH-
UH.
NO
WAY.

FORGET
WHAT
I SAID
ABOUT
BREAKING
UP.

I'M
SORRY.

I TAKE
IT BACK.

CAN'T
DO IT.



HUH...?
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...?

I...

...



...WHA-
AAA
...?

...NO
WAY...

YOU
SOUND
LIKE A
SIREN.

IT TURNS
OUT I
LOVE YOU
MORE
THAN I
THOUGHT.



...I'D
BE WILL-
ING TO
BREAK
UP A
HUNDRED
TIMES...

WELL,
IF I GET
TO HEAR
SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT AT
THE END
OF IT...

WAS
THAT
FOR
REAL
...?

...OH...

SO WHAT?
I'M THE
ONE WHO'S
GOT "GO
FOR IT"
PLUS MY
NAME ALL
OVER MY
BACK.

YEAH, BUT
YOUR FACE
IS HIDDEN.
EVERYONE
CAN SEE
MINE...

SO GO
FOR IT,
THENNNNN...

GO FOR IT
OTANI
FIGHT!

BELIEVE
ME, I
KNOW.

EVERY-
BODY'S
STARING
AT US...

OH...
TANIIII...

WHAT?

ONE,
TWO,
THREE...

OKAY.

...START
RUNNING
WHEN I
SAY GO.

GO!!

DASH

GO FOR IT
OTAKU
FIGHT!!

HEH?

BUT YOU
GAVE ME
SOMETHING
JUST NOW.

...OOPS!

OH!
I DIDN'T
GET YOU
ONE
EITHER!

*Cuz of what
happened.*

HEY, I
DIDN'T
GET YOU A
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT
OR ANY-
THING.

HEARING
THAT...
...WAS
THE
BEST
CHRIST-
MAS
PRESENT
I COULD
WISH
FOR.

IT TURNS
OUT I
LOVE YOU
MORE
THAN I
THOUGHT.

I DIDN'T
GIVE YOU
ANYTHING.

YES,
YOU DID.
YOU
REALLY
DID.

HEYYY,
KOHORI,
CHEER UP!
LET'S
PAR-TAY!!

I
DON'T
NEED
ANY-
THING
ELSE.

SHLOP

ARE YOU
DRUNK,
MIZ
MATSUBA
...?



MERRY
CHRIST-
MAS!

Good
for
you,
Niz M!

Woo-
hoo!!

Hey!
I GOT
HIM!
I GOT
KOHORI
!!

Leggo
of
mee!!

G
V
A
A
R
G
H
!!

MAY I
GET TO
SPEND
EVERY
CHRISTMAS
WITH ÔTANI
FROM
NOW ON.

《...to be continued》

glossary

Page 23, sidebar: Dynamite Shikoku

Dynamite Shikoku is the name of a masked pro wrestler played by comedian Shōzō Endō on Downtown's TV show, *Gaki no Tsukai ya Arahende!!*

Page 58, panel 3: Nose hook

Used in nose bondage, where a hook on a leather strap pulls the nostrils up and open to give a pig-like appearance. Check out *Love★Com* volume 3 for another nose hook appearance.

Page 74, panel 4: Floor cushions

This saying comes from a comedy show on TV featuring traditional *rakugo* storytellers wearing kimono who are seated on floor cushions (*zabuton*), given topics by an elderly MC and asked to come up with snappy puns and jokes on the spur of the moment. If they're good, the MC says "Give him another zabuton," and if they bomb, their zabuton gets taken away. A really good joke will give the teller two or three zabuton, and so on. This has caught on in Osaka so that when someone tells a good one, people will say "Three zabuton!"

Page 117, sidebar: Fujiyama Kanbi

An older comedian and actor from Osaka. He appeared in the 1965 *Zatoichi and the Doomed Man*.

Page 143, panel 1: Koban

Koban, also called police boxes, are small buildings in busy areas manned by a few police officers, and work as an official Neighborhood Watch. The officers at a koban can offer directions, provide lost and found services, take crime reports, and offer emergency assistance.



I always wear contact lenses so you might not know this, but I have really bad eyesight. Boy, I wish they could do something about those vision tests. It's depressing to keep repeating, "I can't tell!" in front of total strangers. In fact, I hate admitting I can't see the darn symbols so much that even when I'm not sure, I try guessing. The "hmmm" I get in reply isn't very reassuring... The whole thing is a huge pain. Why can't they develop a machine that measures your eyesight for you?!

Aya Nakahara won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyō-bi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

LOVE★COM VOL 10

The Shōjo Beat Manga Edition



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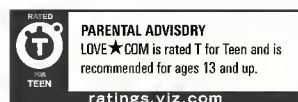
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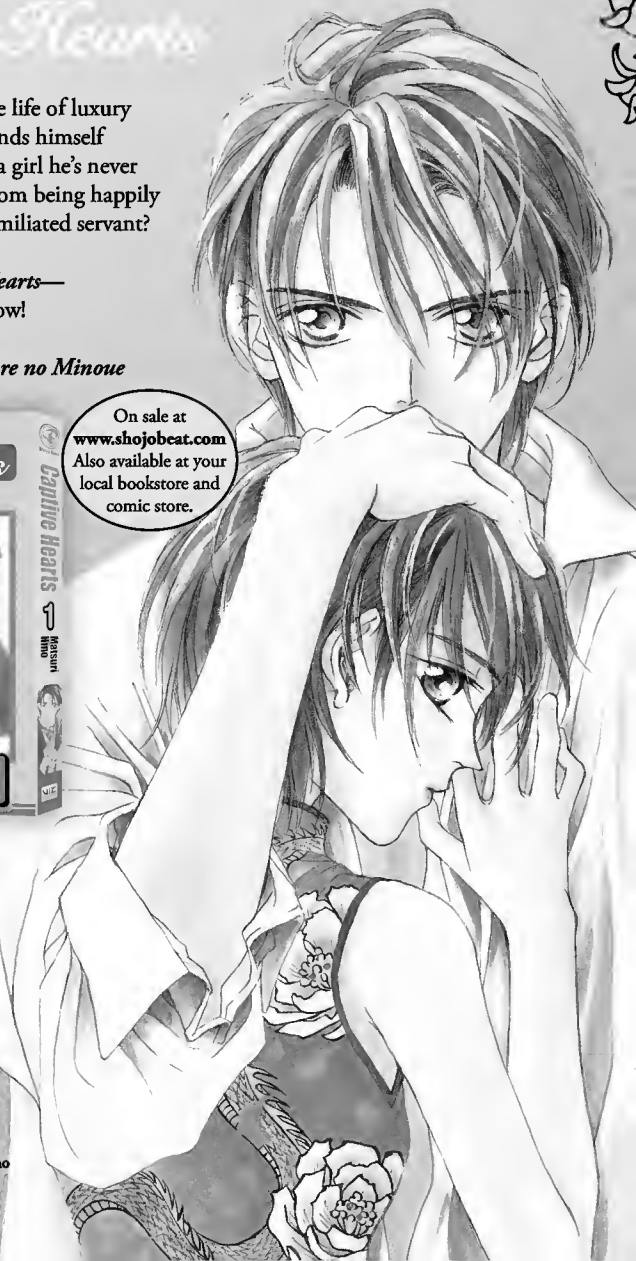
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By Matsuri Hino,
creator of
Vampire Knight
and *MeruPuri*

Shojo
Beat



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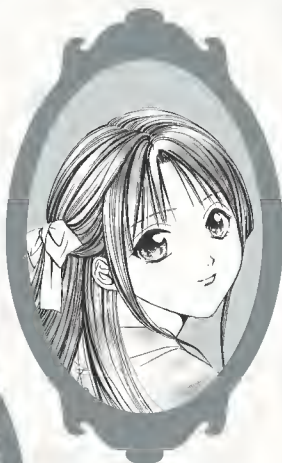


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